

# Adventist Review

General Paper of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

July 11, 1985

## Devotional

Page 2

## Session actions and proceedings

Pages 4, 13

Cover: Fifteen vice presidents of the General Conference were elected at the session in New Orleans, five general vice presidents and ten division presidents.

Also pictured here is Mikhail P. Kulakov, president of the Association of Seventh-day Adventists in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (bottom photo, second row, left).

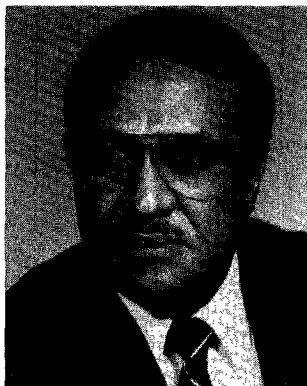
Top photo: General vice presidents. Front row (left to right): Robert J. Kloosterhuis, Enoch Oliveira, Kenneth J. Mittleider. Back row: Wallace O. Coe, Calvin B. Rock. Bottom photo: Division presidents. Front row: Joao Wolff, South American; Bekele Heye, Eastern Africa; Gerald J. Christo, Southern Asia. Second row: Pastor Kulakov; Charles E. Bradford, North American; J. J. Nortey, Africa-Indian Ocean. Third row: George W. Brown, Inter-American; Edwin Ludescher, Euro-Africa. Fourth row: W.R.L. Scragg, South Pacific; Jan Paulsen, Trans-European; and Ottis C. Edwards, Far Eastern.



# The hands of the Trinity

Devotional message presented Friday evening, July 5, 1985.

By C. D. Brooks  
General Field Secretary,  
General Conference, and  
Speaker/Director of the  
Breath of Life



Jeremiah 31:3: "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

Just after college graduation I was sent to a remote little town as tent master for an evangelist. Loneliness enshrouded me and was compounded because my fiancée was hundreds of miles away. Then a package arrived for me containing an enlarged photograph of her. It was autographed, "Eternally Yours." I remember thinking, That's a long, long time.

An era is a fixed point from which time is measured. The Jews count from Adam. Their years are denoted A.M. (*anno mundi*). The Romans counted "from the building of the city" (*ab urbe condita*—753 B.C.). We count our years from the coming of Jesus (*anno ab incarnatione Domini*).

The Bible encompasses seven ages of time:

1. Antediluvian
2. Postdiluvian
3. Abraham's call to David
4. David to captivity
5. End of Davidic kings to Christ
6. First Advent to the Second Coming
7. Second Advent to end of the millenium, when eternity is joined

All these are but "moments" to God! His love is everlasting.

More than 2,000 years after Creation, God revealed truth to Moses. He had been educated in Egyptian universities, and had absorbed heavy courses in Egyptian mythology that made bold declarations concerning "beginnings." Then came the Word of God, declaring, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

But did twigs become worms? Did pebbles become bugs? Moses perhaps heard that in the school of Egypt. Revelation to Moses said God created all living creatures, including humans.

There is a new book out, *Darwin's Enigma*, by Luther Sunderland. In reviewing this book, the *Washington Post* said that three giants of recent times "promised to unlock the door to human happiness."

1. Marx, perceiving the true nature of human society, pointed the way to rational organization of all social effort.

2. Freud revealed the basic structure and drives of the human mind.

3. Darwin's theory of evolution promised to explain the origin and development of all living forms.

But all these are now largely discredited. *Marx* has suffered the worst. There is hardly a Marxist government on earth that is not in explicit or veiled retreat from his principles. Whatever of *Freud's* insights and teachings are salvaged, no one any longer pretends they constitute a definitive description of the human psyche. *Darwin* counted on further "fossil discoveries" to fill in "gaps" that separated particular species from their presumed ancestors. One hundred years later these links are still missing! Basic organisms appear abruptly in fossil records and undergo little change thereafter.

Early confidence that the origin of life was simply a chance concentration of the right chemicals, perhaps energized by a lightning bolt, has crumpled before mathematical realization. Such a possibility is comparable with a chance tornado sweeping through a junkyard and assembling a Boeing 747 from the material therein. Evolutionists are quarreling, but like parents, they don't want to argue in front of the children (the rest of us).

The Sabbath commandment puts it succinctly. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." And that is reliable revelation.

Whence came sin? Egyptian mythology explains cosmic good and evil with a cleverly contrived story about one deity being raped by another, producing an evil, antagonizing seed. Surely this strains credulity! Revelation says Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating of the forbidden fruit. Later, Cain's sin produced religious intolerance, cults, malice, anger, fratricide, hatred, and racism—resulting at last in the great Flood.

God soon broke the common dialect into scrambled speech, and from this Babel confusion came the great "diaspora," developing clans, tribes, nations, races, and peoples speaking in numerous tongues. Revelation says so! We need Genesis. We need God's Word to avoid confusion.

## Incorrect figuring

Scientists deal in billions of years, and a few hundred thousand years this way or that is inconsequential to them. The Bible shows their figuring to be incorrect.

For generations Jehovah searched for a man upon whom He could build a nation and a church. This called for separation. God called Abraham, and by faith he set out to please God, laying the foundation for a church and theocracy. On Mount Moriah, under the glint and flash of the knife, obedience, faith, and self-renunciation all coalesced and galvanized. The father of the faithful was ready to sacrifice his son when God intervened, showing him instead the ram caught in a thicket.

Through the ages, proclaims our Father, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Through chastisement, through wars, through the rage and fury of godless nations, I have loved you. I am eternally yours. Through your apostasy and disaffection, through your treasons and disloyalty, I have loved you.

When you were caught like sheep in the claws of the lion, I have loved you! You have survived because I have loved you! I have protected and defended you! I have multiplied you while you were diminished. While Satan was toiling desperately to destroy you I saved you. When in every person's judgment it appeared you would fall I upheld you.

To feel that God will now leave His people destitute and abandoned as we near the very time for which creation has groaned and God Himself has longed is to accuse God of criminal irresponsibility. This is blasphemy! "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Thou art mine, He declares.

For you I opened a sea and congealed its waters. For you I repelled bacteria so that disease did not afflict you or fever prostrate you. Your clothes did not wear out; they were as though woven with iron threads. I prevented rust and decay. For you, my beloved, I conscripted hornets and sent their humming squadrons to terrorize and vanquish your enemies. For you I came out of heaven to personally deliver my immutable law. For you I came down to dwell in a sanctuary that we might be near each other. "I have loved thee." Ah! For you I came to visit a planet in rebellion. I became poor for your sakes. I was arrested, abused, and murdered for you.

Yes, but I rose from the dead for you, bursting the vault door to Joseph's tomb. I ascended up on high for you, and sent the Comforter to you. I now intercede for you. I am preparing a place for you. I will come again for you.

As we close in on this climactic and glorious event, will He forget or abandon us? "I have loved thee with an everlasting love," He responds.

Hebrews 12:6: "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." Let not saints or sinners misunderstand this. Though My people are careless and insolent in peaceful times and though I visit them with judgments, yet by their cries and complaints I am aroused and My great arm is moved.

In affliction you are still Mine; in your weakness you are Mine. Though I have been reproached and My name dishonored, I have not cast you away. Satan cannot take you out of My hand. You are Mine. Return unto Me. Ask for the "old paths." Seek the fresh springs of primitive godliness.

I firmly believe that we are God's remnant church, though the imperfections of the militant church are all too apparent. I will not, I cannot, surrender this faith. Though demons howl and persecutors rage, I believe we are safe with Him who has loved us everlastingly. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death," I shall not fear. Whoever touches you touches the apple of My eye. O church, don't be overly nervous. He is on the throne. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" You agreed with My standards when you became Mine. I have not changed. My standards have not changed. You have changed. You have listened to confusing voices.

Don't you know what truth is? Do not play games with Me. My sheep know My voice. My Spirit bears witness with your spirit. Your conscience still works. Let God be God. Don't try to cover Me with logic and human cleverness. My ways are not your ways, neither are My thoughts your

thoughts. My wisdom may appear illogical to your finiteness. If I choose to confound the wisdom of the wise with daring simplicity, let it be! If I choose to answer you and guide you with an unlettered prophetic, so be it! Didn't I use Balaam's donkey once? I am God!

Is the bride of the Bridegroom forsaken? God forbid! Ellen White said: "The church is the property of God, and God constantly remembers her as she stands in the world. . . . The most lowly and weak are bound by a chain of sympathy closely to His heart. . . . Omnipotence cannot resist their plea."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 19.

"At times the Lord may seem to have forgotten the perils of His church and the injury done her by her enemies. But God has not forgotten. Nothing in this world is so dear to the heart of God as His church. . . . He will punish those who misrepresent Him. . . . While Satan has been urging his accusations, holy angels, unseen, have been passing to and fro, placing upon the faithful ones the seal of the living God."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 590, 591.

Deadly instruments exist to bring unheard-of woe upon this planet. One writer says a nuclear war could cause clouds to cover the sun for centuries, producing an ice age that would render the earth uninhabitable.

But "the Lord is a refuge for all who put their trust in Him. He bids them hide in Him for a little moment, until the indignation shall be overpast. He is soon to come out of His place to punish the world for its iniquity."—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, on Rev. 5:11, p. 967.

### Let the church look up

The battle was begun in heaven. It will soon culminate decisively in an Armageddon down here. The church is "walled in," but let her look up. She is not forsaken. Like David, she may ask God to put her tears in a bottle. Danger forecast already is here. The last days will be perilous times (2 Tim. 3:1-5). The great danger is that God's church will be discouraged or overwhelmed by the world and the times, that she will lose her anchor and be set adrift, that she will assume she is forgotten and abandoned, that she will grow weary of watching.

Listen! My wife is more precious to me than I am to myself, and the evidence of this would be more certain and apparent if she were in danger. The church is Christ's beloved wife. "The church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12. When she is in most peril, He will be stirred up and moved from His glorious throne. "The Lord cometh out of his place. . . : the earth also shall disclose her blood" (Isa. 26:21).

"Tell me," said the singer, "why do the nations so furiously rage together and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The Lord shall have them in derision. He shall laugh them to scorn" (see Ps. 2:1, 4).

He calls His people with an everlasting gospel. He gives them everlasting consolation. He gives them everlasting life. He binds their archenemy in everlasting chains. All because He has loved them with an everlasting love.

Church! Do not remain uncovered, unshielded, unprotected. Put on the armor. Get into the wedding garment. Enter into your secret chambers and contain yourself quietly there. He says, Come thou, My people, enter within thy chambers and shut the door after thee. Hide thyself a very little while until the indignation be past.

I saw a mother, carrying two bags of food from the store, walking along a busy street with her little son holding on to her skirt. Suddenly the little fellow let go and quickly darted into the street. That mother dropped her bags and threw herself into harm's way and like a flash rescued the thoughtless child. As I passed I heard her saying firmly and softly to the confused and frightened lad, "Didn't I tell you to stay close to me?"

God told us to stay close to Him.

God says, I loved you when I died on the cross, and even before that. That is why I died. I loved you when I made heaven and earth, and before that. That is why I made them for you to abide in, and you shall inherit them. There is a beginning to this world, but not a beginning for My love for you. "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." There has never been a pause, never an ebb, never a failure.

Leap into the future. Encompass your own deathbed. I shall comfort you with this: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Fear not! In a judgment that causes angels to tremble, you will be assured, for "I have loved thee with an everlasting love."

Roll on, ages, love abides! Die out, sun and moon, love remains! O time, be burned out in the glory of eternity. Yet love will continue.

This is heaven! □

## ADVENTIST SCRAPBOOK

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# Ellen White's last General Conference

Ellen White attended her last General Conference session in 1909 on the grounds of Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland. Nearly 82 at the time, she realized this might be the last General Conference she would attend. Mrs. White spoke several times in the big tent during the session, including the afternoon meeting on the last day.

Later, W. A. Spicer, secretary of the General Conference, recalled her last appearance before the delegates: "Well I remember the last words this faithful servant spoke in the general assembly of the movement. . . . Mrs. White spoke a few words of good cheer and farewell, and then turned to the pulpit, where lay a Bible. She opened the book, and held it out with hands that trembled with age. And she said:

"Brethren and sisters, I commend unto you this Book!"

"Without another word, she closed the book, and walked from the platform. It was her last spoken word in the world assembly of the remnant church. Well was it symbolic of the lifelong ministry through this gift, ever exalting high, supreme above all, the Holy Scriptures as the foundation of the faith of the people of the Advent Movement.

# Fourteenth business meeting

Fifty-fourth General Conference session  
July 5, 1985, 9:30 A.M.

## Session actions

[Session proceedings were published in *Bulletin* 8, p. 28.]

### General Conference Constitution and Bylaws—Amendments

*Voted.* To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws to read as follows:

#### Constitution

##### Article I—Name

This organization shall be known as General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

##### Article II—Object

The object of this Conference is to teach all nations the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the commandments of God.

##### Article III—Membership

Sec. 1. The membership of this Conference shall consist of:

a. Such union conferences and union missions, either in organized division sections or without divisional affiliation, as have been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session.

b. Such local conferences and properly organized local missions not included in any division, union conference/mission, or such local conferences/missions/unions of churches directly attached to divisions as have been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session.

Sec. 2. The voters of this Conference shall be designated as follows:

a. Delegates at large.

b. Regular delegates.

Sec. 3. Delegates at large shall be:

a. All members of the General Conference Executive Committee.

b. Such representatives of missions of the General Conference and of general institutions and departments of work, and such general laborers, field secretaries, and laypersons as shall receive delegate's credentials from the Executive Committee of the General Conference, such credentials to be ratified

by the General Conference in session. The number of these delegates thus seated shall not exceed 25 percent of the total number of delegates otherwise provided for.

c. Four delegates from each division, without regard to membership, and one additional delegate for each 200,000 or major fraction thereof, of the division membership, such delegates to be appointed by the division committee and their credentials to be ratified by the General Conference in session. Calculations for these delegate allotments shall be based upon the membership as of December 31 of the year preceding the session.

Sec. 4. Regular delegates shall be appointed in the following manner:

a. Delegates representing union conferences shall be appointed by the respective unions.

b. Delegates representing union missions, and local conferences/local missions/unions of churches attached to the division but not to any union, shall be appointed by the division committee in consultation with the organization concerned.

c. Delegates representing union missions, and local conferences/local missions/unions of churches, without division affiliation shall be appointed by the General Conference Committee in consultation with the organization concerned.

Sec. 5. Regular delegates shall be appointed and accredited on the following basis:

a. *Delegates from union conferences/missions.* Each union conference/union mission shall be entitled to one delegate in addition to its president, without regard to number, an additional delegate for each local conference and each regularly organized mission in its territory without regard to number, and an additional delegate for each 5,000, or major fraction thereof, of the membership of the union conference or mission.

b. *Delegates from attached local fields.* Each local conference/local mission/union of churches directly attached to a division or to the General Conference, as has been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session, shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to number, and an additional

delegate for each 5,000, or major fraction thereof, of the membership of the local conference or mission.

c. Calculations for delegate allotments shall be based upon the membership as of December 31 of the second year preceding the session.

Sec. 6. Credentials to sessions shall be issued by the General Conference to those appointed as provided for in harmony with the provisions of this article.

#### Article IV—Officers and Their Duties

Sec. 1. The officers of this Conference shall be a president, vice presidents, a secretary, an undersecretary, associate secretaries, a treasurer, an undertreasurer, and associate treasurers, who shall be elected by the Conference.

Sec. 2. President: The president shall preside at the sessions of the Conference, act as chairman of the Executive Committee, and labor in the general interests of the Conference, as the Executive Committee may advise, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Sec. 3. Vice Presidents: Each vice president shall at the time of his election be assigned to serve as a general administrative assistant to the president or to preside over a division field.

Sec. 4. Secretary, Undersecretary, and Associate Secretaries: It shall be the duty of the secretary, undersecretary, and the associate secretaries to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the General Conference sessions and of the General Conference Committee meetings, to maintain correspondence with the fields, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Sec. 5. Treasurer, Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers: It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive all funds of the General Conference, and disburse them in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee of the General Conference, and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the General Conference or by the Executive Committee. The undertreasurer and associate treasurers shall assist the treasurer in his work.

#### Article V—Election

Sec. 1. The following shall be elected at each regular session of the General Conference:

a. A president, vice presidents, a secretary, an undersecretary, associate secretaries, division secretaries, a treasurer, an undertreasurer, associate treasurers, division treasurers, general field secretaries,



### Session becomes venue for family reunion

The General Conference session was more than just a church business meeting for the Gordon Jenson family (above). For them—and probably for many other families—it was a family reunion.

The Jensons, missionaries to India since 1948, currently are at Spicer College, where Gordon is head of the theology department and his wife, Betty, is head of the Occidental (Western) music department.

Their three sons (from left, Charles, Wesley, and John—“We’re not of Methodist background, however,” said Gordon, referring to their names) and their families took full advantage of this opportunity to be together. Charles and John are pastors in Iowa and California, respectively, and Wesley is a nutritionist at Glendale Medical Center in California.

JAMES COFFIN

division field secretaries, an auditor, associate auditors, division auditors, a secretary and associate secretaries of the Ministerial Association, a director and associate directors of each duly organized General Conference department; namely, Communication, Education, Health and Temperance, Lay Activities, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Publishing, Sabbath School, Stewardship and Development, Youth; a director of Archives and Statistics, a director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, a director of Adventist Personnel Service, a director and associate director of the Office of Human Relations, a director and associate director of Trust Services; a director of World Foods Service; division Ministerial Association secretaries, division departmental directors, division directors of Trust Services, and division directors of World Foods Service.

b. Other persons, not to exceed 60 in number, to serve as members of the Executive Committee, one third of which shall be laymen.

#### Article VI—Executive Committee

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

a. Those elected as provided by Article V except the General Conference auditor and associate auditors, and division auditors.

b. Presidents of union conferences, presidents of union missions, past presidents of the General Conference holding credentials from this Conference, the president of Andrews University, the director and associate directors of the Biblical Research Institute, the president of Christian Record Braille Foundation, the president of the General Conference Risk Management Service, the director of the Geoscience Research Institute, the president of Harris Pine Mills, the director of Home and Family Service, the president of the Home Study International, the president of Loma Linda University, the president of Oakwood College, the president of the Pacific Press Publishing Association, the director of Philanthropic Service for Institutions, the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Radio, Television and Film Center, the president of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, the executive director of Adventist Development and Relief Agency, International, and the executive secretary of the Advent-

ist-Laymen’s Services and Industries, the director of General Conference Personnel Administration, the editor and associate editors of the *Adventist Review*, the secretary and associate secretaries of the Ellen G. White Estate, the speaker of the *Breath of Life*, the speaker of *Faith for Today*, the speaker of *It Is Written*, the speaker of the *Voice of Prophecy*, and the speaker of the *La Voz de la Esperanza* (Spanish) radio program.

#### Article VII—Term of Office

All officers of the General Conference and those members of the Executive Committee provided for by Article VI, Sec. 1a, shall hold office from the time of election until the next ensuing regular session, or until their successors are elected and appear to enter upon their duties.

#### Article VIII—Incorporations and Agents

Sec. 1. Such incorporations may be authorized by the General Conference in session, or by the General Conference Executive Committee, as the development of the work may require.

Sec. 2. At each regular session of this Conference, the delegates shall

elect such trustees and corporate bodies connected with this organization as may be provided in the statutory laws governing each.

Sec. 3. The Conference shall employ such committees, secretaries, treasurers, auditors, agents, ministers, missionaries, and other persons, and make such distribution of its laborers, as may be necessary effectively to execute its work.

Sec. 4. The Conference shall grant credentials or licenses to ministers and missionaries except in division fields, in union and local conferences, and in organized union missions.

Sec. 5. The General Conference Corporation is an organization formed as an instrumentality of the General Conference for the purpose of assisting the General Conference in carrying out its purposes.

## Article IX—Sessions

Sec. 1. This Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall designate and announce by a notice published in the *Adventist Review* in three consecutive issues at least four months before the date for the opening of the session. In case special world conditions seem to make it imperative to postpone the calling of the session, the Executive Committee, in regular or special council, shall have authority to make such postponement, not to exceed two years, giving notice to all constituent organizations.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee may call special sessions of the General Conference at such time and place as it deems proper, by a

like notice as of regular sessions, and the transactions of such special sessions shall have the same force as those of the regular sessions.

Sec. 3. The election of officers and the voting on all matters of business shall be by viva voce vote or as designated by the chairman, unless otherwise demanded by a majority of the delegates present.

## Article X—Bylaws

The voters of this Conference may enact bylaws and amend or repeal them at any session thereof, and such bylaws may embrace any provision not inconsistent with the Constitution.

## Article XI—Amendments

This Constitution or its Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voters present and voting

at any session, provided that, if it is proposed to amend the Constitution at a special session, notice of such purpose shall be given in the call for such special session.

## BYLAWS

### Article I—Division Sections

Sec. 1. The General Conference shall conduct its worldwide work in division sections, each section to operate within a specified territory in harmony with the policy of the General Conference.

Sec. 2. Union conference and union mission field organizations, together with all other organizations and institutions within the territory, shall be responsible to the respective division committees, or in the case of fields without divisional affiliation, to the General Conference Committee.



## Behind closed doors

**Never underestimate the significance of an elevator—especially at General Conference time.**

By DEBORAH ANFENSON-VANCE

An elevator is an elevator is an elevator. It goes up, it goes down, and occasionally it goes nowhere at all. We are thankful for elevators on a hot day, on a hurried day, on a moving day, and on any day we have to rise higher than the second floor. Apart from this, we don't pay much attention to the elevator unless it isn't there or it isn't working. Most elevators are kind of boring.

Except, of course, at a General Conference session. Then the lowly elevator becomes a committee room, a fellowship hall, an entertainment center, a church, and the home of serendipitous or providential reunions (if only for a minute or so). Transient nature aside, I assign the elevator high marks as it relates to the goings-on of any given General Conference session.

So for more than an hour a REVIEW photographer and I willingly turned ourselves into human yo-yos, riding the 27-floor Hyatt

Regency's glass-backed elevator up and down, up and down. What made this so interesting was that we never knew who might get on next. Those doors could part to admit a 10-year-old swimmer or the General Conference president. There lay the adventure.

There was the college chaplain who boarded at 23 with an empty ice bucket and no specific destination. "Down?" he muttered to himself. But the elevator was already in its descent when he began frantically pushing buttons. He wanted 20, but he got 15.

"It would be fun to shoot straight up to 18," commented a dignified Scandinavian delegate. "I've never gotten to do that." A young rider recommended he come at midnight. "I guarantee you will go straight up and straight down, no stops." He sounded experienced.

I think passengers were a little surprised when Neal Wilson stepped onto our elevator. Probably none of us had ever thought of him taking a lift with the hoi polloi. But it's a long way to the twenty-seventh floor, and not even the GC president has wings. Well, Elder Wilson was friendly and personable to his awestruck traveling companions, who were all trying to think of something brief and unforgettable to say. Two people, including a GC Communication Department member, became so absorbed in the president that they nearly missed their elevator stops. "Whose floor is this?" the communicator called out. It was his.

During the time of our elevator duty it rained, and judging by the condition of those who entered our domain, it rained quite hard. One teen, umbrella in hand and drenched to the skin, presented to our wondering eyes a curious paradox. We finally discovered that his family, still sheltered at the Superdome, had voted him Least Likely to Suffer Water Damage if Rained Upon and had sent him to the hotel to pick up an umbrella for the rest of them. No sense in everyone getting wet.

All this brings up an important point. Business sessions alone do not a General Conference make. When we get together every five years to polish, repair, and alter the structure, we do not neglect its heart—the fun, the fellowship, the laughter, the love. And it's all happening in the elevator and wherever else we get the chance to make it happen.

"Are you guys honestly riding up and down the elevator?" asked an incredulous young man.

"Yes, honestly."

"Well, right before it starts going down, jump up in the air. Honestly, you ought to try it."

But somehow we became so engrossed with the people on the elevator that we forgot.



Sec. 3. The division sections shall be known as: Africa-Indian Ocean Division, China Division, Eastern Africa Division, Euro-Africa Division, Far Eastern Division, Inter-American Division, North American Division, South American Division, South Pacific Division, Southern Asia Division, Trans-European Division, The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The boundaries of these division sections shall be subject to adjustment only at a session (sessions) of the General Conference, or at an annual council (annual councils) of the General Conference Committee.

Sec. 4. If a territorial adjustment is made at an annual council, it shall be made only provided the division(s) affected is (are) represented at the council by at least one of its executive officers. An exception to the requirement of division representation shall be made in a condition of emergency. In such a case the General Conference Committee shall make whatever adjustments are necessary for the conduct of the work in the territory affected.

## Article II—Standing Committees

Sec. 1. At each regular session of this Conference, such standing committees as may be found necessary, including the following, shall be elected to consider such items of business as may be referred to them and to bring in their reports and recommendations to the session:

- a. Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- b. Nominating Committee
- c. Plans Committee

Sec. 2. a. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall consist of the following:

(1) Each division and each attached union shall be entitled to membership on the Nominating Committee based upon its proportion of the world membership as of December 31 of the second year preceding the session. The total under this provision is not to exceed 200, provided, however, that no division have less than eight members on the Nominating Committee.

(2) One member for each attached union and one member for each of the following General Conference institutions: Andrews University, Christian Record Braille Foundation, Harris Pine Mills, Home Study International, Loma Linda Foods, Loma Linda University, Oakwood College, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Review and Herald Publishing Association, and Seventh-day Adventist Radio, Television and Film Center.



b. The members of the Nominating Committee shall be chosen as follows:

(1) Each division delegation shall act as a unit in selecting the members to which it is entitled on the basis of church membership. Delegates at large will join the delegations from the divisions in which they are or were last employed, or now reside.

(2) The election of division representatives on the Nominating Committee shall be by the method of voting considered by the division to be most convenient and efficient, taking into consideration the size of the delegation and other circumstances.

c. Each division delegation in selecting its representatives on the Nominating Committee shall take into account the following points:

(1) The division's representation on the Nominating Committee should, as far as possible, represent the various geographical areas, organizational segments, and types of activity of the division.

(2) Those chosen as members of the Nominating Committee must be duly accredited delegates in attendance at the General Conference session.

(3) Members of the General Conference Committee whose term of service is expiring at the session and therefore stand for reelection shall not be members of the Nominating Committee.

d. No delegate shall nominate more than one person for election to the Nominating Committee.

e. The Nominating Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary under the temporary chairmanship of the president of the General Conference.

f. The Nominating Committee shall limit its nominations to those positions for which budgetary provision has been made.

g. In order to expedite the work of the Nominating Committee, the representatives from each division, including North America, shall be allowed a reasonable amount of

time to meet and consider the personnel needs of their respective divisions and to make recommendations to the full Nominating Committee. Decisions of these groups shall not be binding on the Nominating Committee as a whole, but shall be submitted as recommendations which will be considered. The North American Division group shall recommend personnel for the following offices in the General Conference:

Two associate secretaries.

Two elected members of the General Conference Treasury staff.

One associate director for the Department of Communication.

One associate director for the Department of Education who shall serve as executive secretary of the NAD Board of Higher Education and who shall have been recommended by that board.

One associate director of the Department of Education who shall serve as executive secretary of the NAD K-12 Board of Education and who shall have been recommended by that board.

One associate director of the Department of Health and Temperance.

One associate director of the Department of Health and Temperance in the field of nursing.

One associate director of the Department of Lay Activities.

One associate secretary of the Ministerial Association.

One director of the NAD Office of Human Relations.

One associate director of the NAD Office of Human Relations.

One associate director of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.

One associate director of the Publishing Department.

One associate director of the Sabbath School Department.

One associate director of the Stewardship and Development Department.

One associate director of the Youth Department.

General field secretaries assigned to North America.

## Article III—Vice Presidents

Sec. 1. General vice presidents shall be elected to assist the president with the general administrative work of the General Conference. One additional vice president shall be elected for each division of the General Conference.

Sec. 2. The general vice presidents shall in the absence of the president serve as chairman of the Executive Committee and shall assist the president in his administrative work.

Sec. 3. The vice president for North America shall work under the

direction of the General Conference Committee.

Sec. 4. The vice presidents elected for the divisions outside of North America shall act as chairmen of the division committees operating in their respective fields and shall have charge of the work in those fields under the direction of the division committees and shall be designated within their respective division territories as presidents of the divisions over which they preside.

## Article IV—Undersecretary and Associate Secretaries

An undersecretary and associate secretaries shall be elected to share with the secretary the responsibilities of his office. They shall perform such duties connected with the Secretariat as may be assigned to them by the secretary.

## Article V—Division Secretaries

Sec. 1. A secretary shall be elected for each division outside of North America to be designated "division secretary."

Sec. 2. Division secretaries shall work under the direction of their



respective division committees. It shall be their duty to keep the minutes of the division committee meetings, to collect information and make such reports as may be required, and to do such other work as usually pertains to such office.

Sec. 3. Division committees may appoint such associate and assistant secretaries as may be required to carry on the work.

## Article VI—Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers

An undertreasurer and associate treasurers shall be elected to share with the treasurer the work of his office. They shall perform such duties connected with the Treasury as may be assigned to them by the treasurer or by the Executive Committee. They may be authorized by the Executive Committee to sign checks under the instruction of the treasurer.



### Article VII—Division Treasurers

Sec. 1. A treasurer shall be elected for each division outside of North America to be designated "division treasurer."

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the division treasurers to receive and disburse the funds of the General Conference made available for their territory, under the direction of their respective division committees, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Sec. 3. A division committee may appoint an undertreasurer and such associate treasurers and assistant auditors as may be required to carry on the work.

### Article VIII—General and Division Field Secretaries

Sec. 1. The term "general field secretary" shall be used to designate general field workers elected in addition to the officers to serve in carrying the field responsibilities of the General Conference.

Sec. 2. The general field secretaries shall work under the direction of the General Conference Committee and the president, and be assigned either to field service or to special projects or responsibilities as may be determined by the General Conference Committee.

Sec. 3. Division field secretaries may be elected as shall be deemed necessary to labor in the divisions under the direction of their respective division committees.

### Article IX—Departments—Directors/Secretaries, Associates, and Assistants

Sec. 1. The departmental, association, and service directors/secretaries and associates elected by the General Conference shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee of the General Conference, or in the case of departmental, association, or service directors/secretaries in divisions, under the direction of their respective division executive committees, and

shall occupy an advisory relation to the field.

Sec. 2. The term "associate director/secretary" shall be used to designate such individuals as may be elected to associate with the director/secretary of any General Conference department, association, or service in carrying the responsibilities of his office. Such person shall have the requisite experience, background, and expertise to facilitate the work of the department in carrying out the functions assigned to it not only at headquarters but also throughout the world field. Certain specialized associate activities may be largely accomplished without extensive field activity.

Sec. 3. The term "assistant director/secretary" shall be used to designate such persons as are appointed by the General Conference Committee to assist the director/secretary and his associates in any department, association, or service in carrying the work of the General Conference office, usually in one or more special procedures or functions. These special assignments shall be carried on largely in the office and serve to expedite the work of the departmental staff. Field appointments for departmental assistants shall be of a very limited nature and shall normally be confined to the North American Division.

### Article X—Departmental Advisory Committees

The Executive Committee shall appoint a representative advisory committee for each department, association, or service of the Gen-



Pathfinders were among the marchers in Monday's parade.

eral Conference. Such committee shall in each case be composed of the director/secretary, associates, and assistants of the department, association, or service; the directors/secretaries of departmental, association, or service work in the divisions; and such other persons as the Executive Committee may deem necessary.

### Article XI—Division Departments—Directors/Secretaries, Associates, and Assistants

Sec. 1. Division departmental, association, and service directors/secretaries shall be elected by the General Conference for the respective division fields and shall labor under the direction of their respective division committees.

Sec. 2. Division committees shall appoint such associate and assistant directors/secretaries as may be needed to serve in special capacities, to labor under the direction of their respective directors/secretaries.

### Article XII—Director of Archives and Statistics

At each regular session the General Conference shall elect a director of Archives and Statistics, whose duties shall be to administer the General Conference Archives and to compile and report the statistics of the world work, and who shall serve under the direction of the Executive Committee.

### Article XIII—Executive Committee

Sec. 1. *a.* During the intervals between sessions of the General

Conference, the Executive Committee is delegated the authority to act on behalf of the General Conference in session, including the authority to elect or remove, for cause, officers, directors, and associate directors of departments/services and committee members and to fill for the current term any vacancies that may occur in its offices, boards, committees, or agents by death, resignation, or otherwise.

*b.* The Executive Committee shall also have power to grant or to withdraw credentials or licenses and



to approve such committees and employ such personnel as may be necessary to execute its work effectively.

*c.* The Executive Committee shall have power to effect the retirement, before the expiration of the term for which they have been elected, of persons elected under Article V, Sec. 1a, of the Constitution who may develop a health condition that prevents them from properly discharging their duties.

*d.* The removal from office by the Executive Committee of any person elected under Article V, Sec. 1a, of the Constitution or its withdrawal of credentials or licenses shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting.

Sec. 2. *a.* A meeting of the Executive Committee, known as the Annual Council, shall be held annually for the purpose of considering budgets from the fields and making appropriations, and for the transaction of other business and the adoption of such policies as may be necessary in the operation of the worldwide work.

*b.* A meeting of the Executive Committee, known as the Spring Meeting, shall be held annually for the purpose of receiving the audited financial reports of the General Conference and for transacting regular Executive Committee business as provided in the *General Conference Working Policy* relating to Spring Meetings.





Left to right: Mervyn Joseph, trumpeter, and Joseph Lett, Michael Murrel, and Earl Alexander, drummers, are members of the steel band from Trinidad, representing Inter-America at the session. They also participated in the parade and played at the Hyatt Regency.

Sec. 3. A majority of the full membership of the Executive Committee, including the president or a general vice president, is empowered to transact denominational business of any nature at any time and place.

Sec. 4. Any 15 members of the Executive Committee, including an officer of the General Conference, shall, after due notice to available members, constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee and shall be empowered to transact such executive business as is in harmony with the general plans outlined by the Committee at the designated place of meeting of the Executive Committee as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 5. All meetings of the Executive Committee, except majority meetings, shall be held at the General Conference headquarters, or at such other place as may be definitely arranged by a majority meeting of the Executive Committee, or by the quorum of at least 15 members meeting in regular session at general headquarters.

Sec. 6. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the ranking officer of the Conference who may be present at headquarters, and such officer, or any member of the Committee appointed by him, shall act as chairman of the meeting.

#### Article XIV—Division Committees

Sec. 1. In each division outside of North America, a division committee shall be constituted as hereinafter provided for the transaction of business pertaining to the division.

Sec. 2. The members of a division committee shall be the president, the secretary, the treasurer, and the field secretaries of the division; the presidents of union conferences; the presidents of union missions; the division departmental, association, and service directors/secretaries; and any other members of the General Conference Committee present. Other members may also be appointed by the division committee.

Sec. 3. The actions taken by division committees pertaining to the administration of affairs in division fields shall be considered final, provided they are in harmony with the plans and policy of the General Conference as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws, and



with its Executive Committee actions at regular Annual Councils.

Sec. 4. Five members of a division committee, including the chairman, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. When the chairman is unable to be present, the secretary may convene such a meeting at headquarters and shall serve as chairman unless otherwise determined by the president. Minority meetings of fewer than five members of the division committee may be held for the transaction of necessary routine business, but actions taken at such meetings shall not be final until the minutes of such meetings have been approved in a meeting with a quorum present.

#### Article XV—Corporation Boards

At each regular session of the General Conference the requisite boards of trustees, according to their respective constitutions and bylaws, shall be elected for each legal corporation serving as trustee and holding properties and receiving gifts and legacies for the General Conference unincorporated. The trustees of the General Conference Corporation shall also constitute the Board of Trustees of the General Conference Association.

#### Article XVI—Auditors and Audits

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall have the accounts of the General Conference and of its legal corporations audited at least once each calendar year, and the auditor or one of the associate auditors shall

report upon the same to the Executive Committee annually. The auditor or an associate auditor, as may be arranged, shall report also the General Conference at its regular sessions. The General Conference auditor and the associate auditors shall also be made available for auditing the accounts of union conferences and general institutions as well as division accounts. The auditors shall be under the general direction of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The division auditor or auditors shall audit the books of such organizations or institutions within their territories as the division committees shall direct.

#### Article XVII—Wages and Expenses

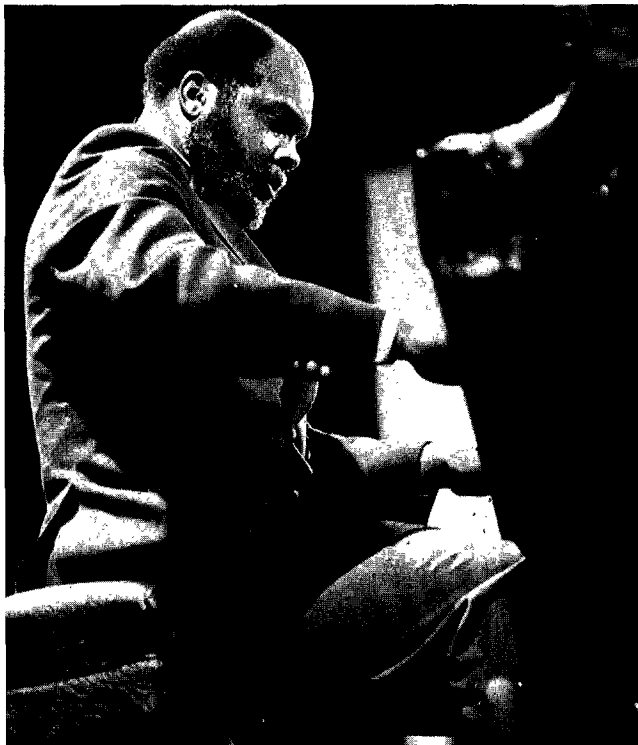
Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall appoint annually eight persons not in its employ who, with the officers of the General Conference and not less than seven presidents of union conferences, shall constitute a committee to audit the expense accounts of employees and to fix their wages for the succeeding year.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee shall have power to make such adjustments from time to time in the wage of clerks, stenographers, and other routine workers as may be necessary.

#### Article XVIII—Funds

Sec. 1. The funds of the General Conference shall be as follows:

a. A title of the title receipts of the union conferences and union missions and of the local confer-



**Shelton Kilby III, a pianist from Nashville, Tennessee, played a stirring musical prelude to the Wednesday evening meeting.**

ences and missions not included in union conferences and union missions.

b. Regular mission offerings.

c. Special donations and proceeds from the maturities of deferred gifts.

d. Such percentage of the tithe of local conferences and missions as may be determined by a committee composed of the conference and mission presidents and the division executive committee, or, in the case of North America, the conference and mission presidents and the General Conference Executive Committee.

e. Surplus tithes which may be appropriated by local and union conferences for the mission field.

f. Appropriations from our publishing houses, sanitariums and other institutions that are under the control of the General Conference which, because of the character of their work, have more than local influence and responsibility as may be arranged by joint counsel of the Executive Committee of the General Conference with the board of management of each institution.

g. Such percentage of the funds of union and local conferences and missions, institutions, and Adventist Book Centers in North America as may be arranged by the General Conference Committee in counsel with conference presidents, the same to be known as the Retirement Plan for the support of aged and

infirm workers and for the dependent widows and orphans of workers.

Sec. 2. Divisions outside North America shall adopt a retirement plan which shall be in harmony with principles set forth in the General Conference Retirement Plan.

### Article XIX—Appropriations

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall make its appropriations for home and foreign work at the Annual Councils, said appropriations to be based on budgets from the fields requiring financial help.

Sec. 2. Appropriations shall be made subject to the receipt of the full amount of funds estimated in the General Conference budget. In case of a shortage, the distribution shall be on a pro rata basis to all the interests represented in the budget.

Sec. 3. Appropriations for major permanent investments shall be held in trust for the purpose for which the appropriation was designated. In case the project is abandoned, the funds shall revert to the General Conference. Other funds appropriated to division fields shall be administered by the division committee.

Sec. 4. All funds raised in division fields, except the regular funds belonging to the General Conference, as indicated under Article XVIII, may be used for the advancement of the work in the

fields in which they were raised.

Sec. 5. General Conference funds in all the world shall be made available to meet the annual appropriations of the General Conference.

### Article XX—Finance

Sec. 1. To tide over a possible financial depression and to provide a working fund for regular operations, the General Conference shall maintain an amount of working capital as defined and specified in the *Working Policy*.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee, acting through its legal agency, the General Conference Corporation, shall have power to make such annuity contracts as may seem desirable; but all moneys obtained in this way shall be invested in securities and not be made available for appropriations until the annuity contracts have matured.

Sec. 3. The tithes and mission offerings received by the General Conference shall be held as a trust for appropriation to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. It shall not be within the prerogative, therefore, of the General Conference Committee, the Treasury, nor of any agent or agency of the denomination, to loan these funds to private individuals, to endorse notes, sign bonds or other securities, or in any other way to divert the funds of the General

Conference from their intended purpose. Advances specifically authorized under regular policy, and made in order to enable workers to become located and equipped for service, are not a violation of this provision.

Sec. 4. The basis for computing goals and per capita funds shall be the average of the membership of the four consecutive quarters ending on September 30 of the preceding year as published in the General Conference official statistical reports.

### General Conference Constitution and Bylaws—Provision for Advance Agendas to Session Delegates

*Voted*, To provide to each delegate to a General Conference session a copy of the proposed agenda eight weeks prior to the opening of the next regular session, with supporting materials that would provide information regarding the items, recognizing that the agenda is not closed at that time and that items may still be added for presentation at the forthcoming session. [Adjourned.]

KENNETH J. MITTLEIDER

*Chairman*

D. R. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*

J. W. BOTHE, *Actions Editor*

MARTHA HORN

*Recording Secretary*

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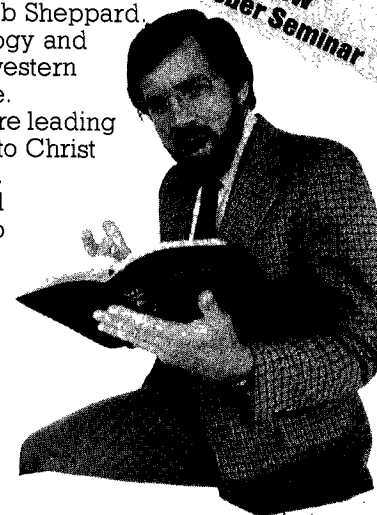
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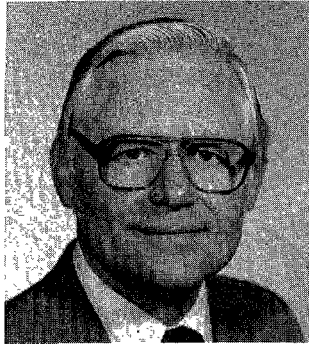


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# Biblical Research Institute

Report presented  
at the General  
Conference session.

By GEORGE W. REID  
*Director*



The roots of the present Biblical Research Institute reach back to the Defense Literature Committee (instituted in 1943) and the Committee on Biblical Study and Research (appointed in 1952). These committees were merged in 1969. Gordon M. Hyde served until 1979 as the institute's first director.

During the present quinquennium its activities have been supervised by W. Richard Leshner (1979-1984) and, beginning in 1984, by George W. Reid. At present the staff includes three associates: Frank Holbrook, Herbert Kiesler, E. Edward Zinke; and two secretaries: Genevieve Bothe and Martha Lunt. Annette Graves and Elvira Segovia also served a portion of this period in a secretarial capacity.

## Organization

Oversight and general supportive counsel to the operation of the institute is in the hands of a resident committee known as the Biblical Research Institute Administrative Committee (BRIAD). This advisory council includes members from the presidential, secretariat, treasury, and ministerial areas, and from the White Estate.

A large group of Adventist scholars (approximately 40), drawn from both North American educational institutions and overseas divisions, form the Biblical Research Institute Committee (BRICOM). These scholars, who meet semiannually, volunteer their time. At times specialists in allied fields are asked to meet with them. They form the working core of the institute, researching, writing, and critiquing the papers presented on the various issues the institute undertakes to study.

In recent years the world divisions have been encouraged to form Biblical Research Committees at the division level and to appoint their directors as members of BRICOM. At present four BRCs are functioning. The following six personnel are members of BRICOM and represent their respective divisions or BRC: Arthur Ferch (Australasian Division); John Fowler (Southern Asia Division); Mario Veloso (South American Division); W. H. Vhymeister and James Zachary (Far Eastern Division); Bertil Wiklander (Northern European Division); and Jean Zurcher (Euro-Africa Division). Through the exchange of minutes and papers with concerns common to all divisions or unique to some, this arrangement enables the world church to move together in unity of belief and practice.

The Biblical Research Institute Science Council (BRISCO) functions under the direction of BRIAD and deals with issues

related to science and the Scriptures. Ariel Roth, chairman of the Geoscience Institute and a member of BRICOM, gives direction as chairman of this council of scientists and Bible scholars. A staff member of the Biblical Research Institute serves as secretary. In this manner BRISCO forms a link between the two institutes and provides an opportunity for scientists and Bible scholars to study together. BRISCO meets annually, often in a field location, to examine problems and to seek solutions in harmony with the Biblical view of Creation and the Flood.

## Activities

The overall purpose of the institute is to provide the church and its ministers with resource information and materials in the area of the Bible and theology. In general, it is active in four principal areas.

**In-service assistance.** The institute functions as "theologian in residence" for the benefit of the officers and departments of the General Conference. Members serve on a variety of committees where Biblical or theological input is needed. The institute also responds to requests from departments for assistance on particular projects. Correspondence from the world field on Biblical matters commonly is routed to the institute.

**Research.** The institute is engaged continually in research projects for the purpose of providing positive, spiritual insights for the well-being of the church. In this way assistance is provided by the scholars who compose BRICOM and by invitees who are experts in their disciplines. During this quinquennium, papers were prepared on the role and function of the prophetic gift in the Adventist Church. Another project dealt with a Seventh-day Adventist concept of human sexuality. At present the institute is beginning extensive research in the area of ecclesiology (the church—its nature and mission).

During this quinquennium the institute also has assisted the Daniel and Revelation Committee in its research and study of these two important prophetic books. The institute arranges for the committee's sessions, and edits and publishes its materials.

"Issues in the Book of Hebrews" (*Adventist Review*, Feb. 7, 1985) and several articles have been published recently for the Daniel and Revelation Committee under the auspices of the institute. At present a volume is in preparation that discusses the issues in Daniel and Leviticus. Other works on Hebrews, Revelation, and doctrinal development in the Seventh-day Adventist Church will follow.

Recently the institute entered into a joint venture with the Review and Herald Publishing Association to prepare a large book on Seventh-day Adventist doctrinal beliefs. This work, involving some 34 overseas and American scholars, will become volume 11 of the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary Reference Series. Its projected date of publication is the summer of 1988.

**Apologetics.** The institute often is requested to critique challenges to the doctrinal positions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Materials developed in response to current issues generally are published and can be obtained from the institute's offices.

**Field service.** The institute conducts Bible conferences for the Adventist ministry in the world divisions and makes presentations at conference workers' meetings in North America in response to requests. In the past two years the institute has joined with the Ministerial Association and the White Estate to provide a series of lectures for ministers in a program of continuing education. To date the series has been presented at workers' meetings in the Arizona, Montana, and Minnesota conferences.

In this quinquennium 14 Bible conferences on the general theme of eschatology have been conducted in several divisions: three in the Euro-Africa Division; three in the Southern Asia Division; and eight in the Far Eastern Division. While the institute organizes these conferences, much of their strength stems from the participation of scholars and ministers from the Theological Seminary, the ADVENTIST REVIEW, North American Division, and elsewhere.

**Publishing.** The principal publishing outlets for the institute include *Ministry* and the *ADVENTIST REVIEW*. The institute also prepares and publishes books that can be secured from Adventist Book Centers or the Biblical Research Institute itself.

Volumes currently available are: *A Symposium on Biblical Hermeneutics*, *The Sanctuary and the Atonement*, and *Selected Studies on Prophetic Interpretation*. Announcements of new titles usually are made through *Ministry* magazine.

The staff members of the Biblical Research Institute are grateful to have a part in serving the world church in preparing a people for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. □

## Trust Services

### Report presented at the General Conference session

By ALVA R. APPEL  
Director



A man had been healed; as a result Peter and John were threatened and released. In boldness they took the position that they must witness to the things they had seen and heard. They gave their report to the assembled brethren and sisters, who in response "lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is" (Acts 4:24). Then followed that fantastic event described in verse 31: "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

Too often we stop with amazement, wonder—yes, longing—as we read these verses. They remind us that even as there was an early rain there will also be a latter rain. What situation prevailed during the early rain? "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul." That is the experience we yearn for. "Neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common" (verse 32). This was a time when the apostles witnessed to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with great power, courage, and love.

At the time of the early rain people were obsessed with sharing the gospel and meeting the needs of their fellow believers. This dedication led to a beautiful experience: "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need" (verses 34, 35). Apparently the first man to do this was Barnabas. You might say he was the first trustor of the Christian church. Barnabas came from Cyprus; his name means "encouragement." Having land, he "sold it and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet" (verse 37). This same Barnabas "brought . . . [Saul] to the apostles, and declared unto them he had seen the Lord in the way" (chap. 9:27). He also had faith in young Mark, adding him to his team. These

things happened in the time of the early rain. Is this not what we would expect also during the latter rain? Is it not already beginning to happen?

Today we too can lift up our voices with one accord and praise the Lord and say, "Thou art God." We are seeing baptisms around the world in numbers surpassing those of the early rain. There is a growing crescendo of God's people dedicating their assets and properties to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ that will culminate in the glorious coming of our Lord. Success does not come without dedication and often trauma; but succeed we will, for this is God's way of accomplishing His work. I wish we had time and space to share the many thrilling stories of people whose hearts have been touched and how they have responded. What a blessing their means have been to God's work!

Today, from Papua New Guinea to Finland, from South Africa to Alaska, from Iceland to the Philippine Islands, men and women are remembering the Lord in planning the use of their earthly possessions. The needs of their families and God's greater family are being prayed over and planned for under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the assistance of dedicated personnel.

The past five years have been good years. More than \$112.5 million or its equivalent has been made available by the planned giving of God's people through trust services. What a blessing these funds have been for evangelism, churches, schools, relief and development programs! More than \$34.5 million of this became available in 1984. Note the continuing growth during this quinquennium:

1980	\$ 15,377,340
1981	\$ 19,976,979
1982	\$ 19,991,811
1983	\$ 22,647,382
1984	\$ 34,682,597
TOTAL	\$112,676,109

One of the modern "Barnabas" families is the Wilbur James family of College Place, Washington. Not only have they given a lifetime of service, but they have dedicated their means to the Lord's work in this time of the latter rain. Farms have been sold and the funds put into God's work now. Why have they done this? Because of their deep love for each other, the Lord, and their fellowmen.

People have been brought into the message through this important work. I think of a frugal man, an insurance agent and landscape artist, who was impressed with the charitable work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He contacted Everett Shull, conference trust officer. Elder Shull and I went to see this gentleman. It was the first of many contacts. From reading books given to him, he started keeping the Sabbath. Later, after Gordon Harris took him every evening to Kenneth Mittleider's evangelistic series, he was baptized into the remnant church. Today, at 85 years of age, this man is a happy, alive, and alert Christian, who praises God for this faith.

Let us thank the dedicated and trained personnel in trust services who work untiringly to assist so many in dedicating means for the completion of God's work—men and women who have witnessed to the things that they have seen and heard.

We praise the Lord for this success. But could it be that there should be even more modern Barnabases in every country of the world? Think of the greater successes that could be had with greater dedication in the days of the latter rain, when the majority of God's people will be fully consecrated to the Lord and His message—a message to men and women with so many spiritual and physical needs. Today we have one in 20 who are modern Barnabases, and we praise the Lord for them. Tomorrow could there be one in ten or one in five, or even better, one in two, and the final goal, everyone? What an outpouring of the latter rain that will be! What a rejoicing when we can all say, "Thou art God!" □



## Let there be music!

Among the musicians at the session (clockwise, beginning top left): Philiacord, from Grand Terrace, California; the Oakwood College Aeolians; Carol and Bernie Paulson, from Oregon; the Kidayo Central Choir, from the Eastern Africa Division; members of the Collegedale, Tennessee, Suzuki Strings; Ivan Kasanov, from the U.S.S.R.





# Fifteenth business meeting

Fifty-fourth General Conference session  
July 5, 1985, 1:30 P.M.

## Session proceedings

ANN CHANIN: [Opening prayer.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Please take the material you received this morning from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The first recommendation has to do with the review of language and terminology of this document. We are simply recording here that some of the terminology needs to be updated. [Motion was made and seconded.]

HERBERT E. COLLIDGE: I recognize you already have a motion on the floor. After that motion is handled I would like to enter an additional motion that the General Conference Executive Committee at its earliest possible moment create a standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee with power to review these documents, and that such a committee would approve any items that come to the floor of the next General Conference session.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: [First motion was voted.]

HERBERT E. COLLIDGE: I move that the next Annual Council name a permanent standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee. [Motion was seconded.]

NEAL C. WILSON: I like the intent, but I am a little troubled by the word *permanent*. There is no such thing as "permanent" in this church.

HERBERT E. COLLIDGE: In our conference we have a constitution and bylaws committee empowered to function any time during the triennial period for which it is elected. I would like to see the church have a committee that functions between sessions of the General Conference. If *permanent* is the wrong word, I am happy to see an appropriate word there.

NEAL C. WILSON: To have a continuing committee is very difficult in the world church. It will tend to be entirely North American, and that is not satisfactory. If the motion were to ask that a committee be appointed to study the Constitution and Bylaws well in advance of the General Conference session, I think we might be able to handle it.

J. W. BOTHE: It would be helpful to read what we have suggested for our unions and our

conferences regarding standing constitution and bylaws committees. "Each regularly scheduled constituency meeting of this conference may elect a standing constitution and bylaws committee. This committee shall function between the regularly scheduled constituency meetings and shall submit its reports and detailed recommendations to the conference/union executive committee and to the next regular constituency meeting." If the intent of the motion is that the General Conference is requested to name a standing committee, the General Conference can take this into consideration, giving thought to it at an appropriate time.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: The wording is something that we could live with very easily. [Motion was voted.]



## White Estate board elects new trustees

Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 2, the Ellen G. White Estate board increased the number of trustees from 13 to 15. The bylaws were amended so that they now call for eight trustees to be elected for five-year terms, in addition to the seven lifetime trustees.

Trustees reelected to serve another five years are C. E. Bradford, W. G. Johnsson, and J. Zurcher. Newly elected to a five-year trusteeship is Enoch Oliveira. The remaining four five-year trustees will be elected at a later date.

Tenure policies for White Estate staff members were brought into harmony with General Conference employment policies. Instead of being elected for an indefinite period, as heretofore, the secretary and associate secretaries will now be elected for five-year terms.

Officers of the White Estate board and staff reelected are Kenneth H. Wood, chairman; R. W. Olson, secretary; Paul A. Gordon, undersecretary; Roger W. Coon, associate secretary; Elbio Pereyra, associate secretary; and George Rice, associate secretary.

The vice-chairman and the treasurer of the board will be elected at a later date. The chairman and vice-chairman of the board of trustees also serve as president and vice president, respectively, of the Ellen G. White Estate Corporation.

Paul A. Gordon was reelected as an alternate board member.

J. W. BOTHE: I move the adoption of the following recommendations: To request the General Conference Committee to develop a proposal for codifying the provisions of General Conference Constitution Article III, Section 3b, for the purpose of establishing more specifically how the provisions of that section are to be applied and to submit the proposal to the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

I move the following: To request the General Conference Committee to compile and publish rules of procedure to be followed in conducting the business meetings of a General Conference session. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

I move the following: To request the General Conference Committee to consider the practicality of appointing a parliamentarian for the business meetings of future General Conference sessions. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

I move the following: To refer to the General Conference Committee

consideration of the matter of representation from division institutions on General Conference session nominating committees. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Elder Wilson will now bring us a report from the commission appointed to study the role of women in the church.

NEAL C. WILSON: An extensive survey was made toward the end of 1976 in North America with respect to the feelings of church members on women serving as local elders, being ordained to the gospel ministry, and serving as deaconesses. The survey was filed in the president's office and became the subject of discussion and evaluation during the following year or two.

Certain changes were made about 1977 whereby in North America it was made possible for individuals who had completed ministerial and seminary training to be invited into conferences as licensed ministers (not as ordained ministers), and to be assigned to a particular church. Such persons also were ordained as local elders.

The Annual Councils of 1976, 1977, and 1978 also provided that women should be encouraged to seek training along ministerial lines to assist in the evangelistic outreach of the church. While not being eligible for ordination, they could be used as associates in pastoral care. There were discussions then as to what designation should be used. At that time it was not contemplated that this would lead to ordination, but that these individuals would receive missionary credentials.

With that encouragement, some very fine young ladies did go through training in our colleges. They certainly had a very deep commitment to serving in the pastoral role, and many of them have been blessed with talents that seem to commend them.

Those provisions did not reach beyond North America, even though the Annual Councils, opened the way for other divisions to endorse them if they so chose. Nearly all other divisions felt that the time was not appropriate.

With this encouragement, young ladies completed college and received a stipend for seminary training. They completed their studies in the seminary just like the young men did. They were called to a church to serve in a ministerial role. But young ladies were given a missionary license or a commissioned minister's license; and young men were given a ministerial license, which presupposed moving on to ordination. It became a little bit difficult to justify the difference between the credentials given to the young women and those given to





Gerald D. Karst, president of the Middle East Union, left, and delegates from that field introduced a video report on Thursday evening.

young men, all things else being equal. This was a rather difficult and embarrassing situation for the church.

The Columbia Union Conference requested that the General Conference look into the problem and, with the North American Division, try to make some determination. So the General Conference in response to this request did set up a commission to look at this whole matter. It was composed of 66 individuals, 14 of whom were women.

Each division of the General Conference was represented and made a contribution. This particular 24-page report gives the results of their study. This commission was one of the most productive commissions that we have had for a long time. A great deal was learned. It was quite evident from the reports of the divisions that at this time there is no strong support for ordination of women. It was also very evident from the reports that we are prepared to move together.

There was very strong concern on the part of the commission that the ministry should not be fragmented. In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, ministerial ordination is universal, accepted in any part of the world.

The commission brings several recommendations to the General Conference session.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I now ask our secretary to read the recommendations.

J. W. BOTHE: I move that we approve the following recommendations:

1. To take no definite action at this time regarding the ordination of women to the gospel ministry.
2. To maintain the church's present position on this matter.
3. To prepare further Biblical and other studies on the question of

ordaining women by assigning specific topics to scholars and theologians for research.

4. To assign discussion of the documents growing out of such research to a special representative committee that will be scheduled to meet early in 1988, its findings to be presented in a report to the 1988 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee and subsequently to the 1989 Annual Council, at which time the entire issue will be reviewed.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Now we turn to the next recommendation.

J. W. BOTHE: I move the adoption of the following:

1. To urge that "affirmative action" for the involvement of women in the work of the church be a priority plan with church leadership, and to request leaders to use their executive influence to open to all women all aspects of ministry in the church that do not require ordination.

2. To give special emphasis to

the work of Bible instructors, both women and men, and to urge that conference and field administrators restore this ministerial category to importance and accord it proper recognition in the work of the church.

3. To recognize the desirability of a pastor and his wife working together as a team and the spiritual strength that would result through such combined ministry, and to urge that this concept be studied further, together with the development of a financial plan and training program that would support its implementation wherever feasible.

4. To recognize that a great need exists to educate our people regarding the major roles that women may fill in the Lord's work without ordination, and to request that specific plans to meet this need be developed and presented to the 1985 Annual Council.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

I move that we approve the following: To institute a reform in the church's ordination practices for

the purposes of limiting ministerial ordination only to those who perform direct pastoral, evangelistic, ecclesiastical, or other clearly ministerial-type duties.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

I move that we approve the following recommendation: To request the North American Division committee to clarify the functions of ministerial workers who hold ministerial licenses, including how such functions relate to women who serve as pastors or associates in pastoral care, and to request that a complete proposal on roles and procedures be submitted by the North American Division to the 1985 Annual Council for consideration.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

Please note the item entitled "Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries." In 1983 the Annual Council established an Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Study was given as to whether this should continue as an independent office or whether it



Members of a "marimba orchestra" from Mexico performed in the Superdome several times.

should merge with some of the other departments. It was finally agreed that it would be better served if it would function as an independent office.

I move that we approve the following recommendations:

1. To provide for setting up an office to be known as the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM).
2. To amend the General Con-

ference Constitution to provide for the ACM and for its director to be an elected member of the General Conference staff.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

NEAL C. WILSON: Because of the time consumed with the Role and Function Commission report, we in a sense lost about two days of floor time. I am not suggesting that

this was not essential, for it does indicate clearly that our various organizations around the world should be in harmony with General Conference recommendations and model constitutions. This is one of the uniting factors of our church.

There is the feeling that the constitution ought to be relatively brief, and the bylaws more extended and explanatory, that the constitu-

tion should be identical or at least similar in various parts of the world, whereas there might be some flexibility in the bylaws.

I think the commission has done a very good job, but we have only 50 minutes before we adjourn.

Because we do need model union/conference constitutions and bylaws, I move that the matter be studied by divisions, unions, and

**Top left: George W. Brown, Inter-American Division president, reminded the congregation during his division report that pastors in Inter-America had welcomed 231,682 new members into their churches during the past five years. (He had first announced this figure at the close of the One Thousand Days of Reaping on Sabbath afternoon, June 29.) Top right: Dr. Brown welcomed B. A. Archbold, former division president, to the platform with an *abrazo* (a hug) as Mrs. Archbold smiles her approval. The women seated in front of them are awaiting their turn to walk down the platform stairs (bottom) and distribute flowers.**



conferences, after which it will be referred to an Annual Council with adequate representation and sufficient information, and then to the fifty-fifth General Conference session.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

W. R. LESHNER: We are very happy to be able to bring a final report from the Nominating Committee. We have examined approximately 279 positions during these days. We got off to a relatively slow start, but I would say that electronic voting helped us a great deal. We are grateful for that provision. We have completed our work with the exception of four positions.

There were others besides the members of the Nominating Committee whose services we appreciated. Bob Woolford, an aide to the committee, helped us find people on the floor. LaVerne DeVaughn served as recording secretary and kept us in order when names came in quite rapidly. Ed Bahr and Ed Henkel developed the electronic system by which our voting was done, and kept it operating.

NOEL S. FRASER: [Presented the final report of the Nominating Committee, found on page 8 of *Bulletin* 8. Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I believe that completes our Nominating Committee report. We want to thank the committee very much for the work it has done.

There is a group of people within the Seventh-day Adventist Church who are doing an outstanding work. They are known by many as members of the ASI, Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries.

[The report of the ASI was presented.]

D. E. ROBINSON: Before we conclude the business of this afternoon's meeting, I would like to express appreciation to a number of people. We have had a multitude of helpers. It is with some trepidation that I select names of those we would like to say a special Thank you to, because there are so many. We would like to personally thank each one of you publicly if we had the time to do so.

There are a number of individuals who have carried particularly heavy burdens. Special thanks go to Karl Bahr, who has served as assistant session manager. I next mention a lady who has seen very little of what has gone on here in the Superdome, my secretary, Naomi Wilmot. I want to recognize those who organized the volunteer workers, Evadeane Peters and Henrietta Stumph. They provided a service that we appreciate very much. They spent endless hours on the mezzanine



**During Euro-Africa's report, Edwin Ludescher, division president, said farewell to delegates from Greece, one of the countries leaving Euro-Africa and joining the newly formed Trans-European Division. He and a Greek girl enjoy a lighthearted moment.**

level answering questions and helping people.

Another team has provided a very necessary service here at the Superdome—Clinton Wall and Millie Kurtz. Together with their helpers, they have done an outstanding job. Thank you, Clinton and Millie. I hope that you and your helpers were able to hear that round of applause. If some of you feel the lines have been too long, please volunteer to help feed our people in Indianapolis in 1990.

Thanks to the guides, the hostesses, the many volunteers, to Frank Jones, who has been a great help in caring for all the office equipment, and to Eddie Pullen and David Jones, who have done an outstanding job in providing sound and lighting. I want to thank Jim Vuko and Travelite, who have taken care of our registration and hotel arrangements.

There are some to whom I want to pay a very special tribute. I would like to invite our student pages from Southwestern Adventist College to come forward to the upper steps of the platform. [Applause.] They are the finest living exhibit here in New Orleans. These young people, and others like them who are right now

in the exhibits around the plaza level, volunteered their time. They were assigned to different aspects of the session, gaining a wealth of experience, seeing you as you really are, learning how the church functions, and getting some insights that will enrich the rest of their lives. Young people, we sincerely appreciate what you have done to help us. We want to thank Southwestern Adventist College for working with us and helping to lighten our burdens.

I would like three special helpers to come forward to the platform at this time. These three people have done a tremendous amount to help us as we planned for the session, to care for our many needs.

Lou Plasencia is the sales manager at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and has so ably cared for our many needs in our headquarters hotel. The hotel management has done everything it could to make our meetings run smoothly.

Sallee Pavlovich, with the New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission as sales manager, has been our contact for several years, steering us through a maze of city regulations, helping us to make necessary contacts.

Bart Whitaker is our coordinator in the Superdome. Bart has given tirelessly of himself and of his time. He has really excelled in being available from morning till night.

As a token of our appreciation to these three outstanding people, we would like to share a little gift with them—with Lou, Sallee, and Bart. This is a little book, *Steps to Christ*, written by my great-great-grandmother. Your names are inscribed on the cover. Some 30 million copies of this book have been distributed around the world, and it has been translated into 122 languages. I hope that you will enjoy it and that it will help you to remember your friends the Seventh-day Adventists.

NEAL C. WILSON: Elder Robinson has spoken about everyone else, but on his shoulders for the past couple of years has rested the responsibility of coordinating all this. I hope that each of you will express your appreciation to him in your own way when you can, but together this afternoon let's give him a good hand. [Applause.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: We have more items of business we need to transact.

NEAL C. WILSON: There have been several requests for an open discussion of the Statement of the Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists. I want to explain why we chose not to do this at this session. There seems to have been a very favorable world reaction to and acceptance of the Fundamental Beliefs as voted in 1980.

The introduction states that "when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language in which to express the teachings of God's Holy Word," wording revision could be discussed again. Frankly, throughout this past five years there has been no one who has revealed to us that the Holy Spirit has led in making any substantive changes.

There needs to be a degree of permanence to a Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. It should not be opened up every time we meet, seeing how we can word it a little differently. When the Holy Spirit leads us to some different conclusions or when it seems as though the Holy Spirit points out that it be stated more clearly, we want certainly to open it. For these reasons we have chosen to leave this statement as it is.

Notice this statement in the section "The Nature of Man": "Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body,



**With the music prelude to the morning devotionals beginning at 7:45 A.M. and the evening programs not ending until 9:15 P.M., it was difficult for some not to succumb to the temptation to doze.**

mind, and *soul*, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else." [Italics supplied.]

This statement was clearly an editorial slip. You know that a person is not made up of body, mind, and soul, but that body, mind, and spirit make a living soul. It is a clear theological point.

I would hope that the delegates would agree that this be corrected editorially by common consent rather than by formal vote.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: The chairman will ask for consent. May we have a show of hands of those who are in full accord. [It was unanimously agreed to make the editorial change.]

NEAL C. WILSON: Many of you know that during the past quinquennium the church has been charged with a "cover-up" in connection with the work of Ellen White. It has been alleged that Ellen White borrowed heavily and that she was almost entirely dependent upon other writers. The allegations of plagiarism have been made, at times, in very unethical ways.

It was felt by some of us that a careful study should be done to ascertain whether these allegations were true or not. We first selected Dr. James Cox, a New Testament scholar, to do this work, but shortly after he had accepted this assignment he was invited to go to Australia as the president of Avondale College. Finally we selected an individual who was well qualified to do this particular job, an outstanding scholar, a careful researcher, a

person who has been known for his openness and honesty in terms of his academic pursuits, Dr. Fred Veltman, of Pacific Union College.

*The Desire of Ages* was selected for this study because it covers one of the more familiar themes, the life of Jesus. It is also one of the most prized books of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, because it contains so much devotional and theological material. Perhaps no century produced more "lives of Jesus" than the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when Ellen White lived, ministered, and wrote her books.

With a small staff and a number of volunteer helpers to identify similar paragraphs, words, phrases, and sentences in the book *The Desire of Ages*, the work began. It took much longer than had been anticipated, because of the painstakingly thorough work that was done. Dr. Veltman wanted to be sure he would have an answer for anyone who challenged his work. He wanted a project that would have credibility in all circles.

Personally I am very grateful for his work. Dr. Veltman's personal testimony is that he had a rare privilege to read much of Ellen White's writings in handwritten, typewritten, and published forms. He developed a greater respect and appreciation for and confidence in Ellen White than before.

We all knew five years ago when this project was launched that Ellen White had to some degree used many literary sources. She had access to many books and read

widely, but the degree of her dependency or "borrowing" was undetermined. As a result of Dr. Veltman's study, he is satisfied that Ellen White was *not* a plagiarist, and he makes this a part of his declared statement and summary. That she used other sources is clearly evident, and on that point there really should be no dilemma. A careful study of Ellen White's writings gives clear credit to her independence and creative work.

Dr. Veltman and his staff examined and computerized carefully about 500 books to try to identify significant similarities. It is very satisfying and faith-confirming to me to know that the study that Dr. Veltman has done provides conclusions that he is very willing to have challenged. Because of the magnitude and detail of this work, only 15 randomly chosen chapters were analyzed in four years. He has condensed his report on these 15 chapters into 1,500 pages. His covering letter to me is very significant.

Dr. Veltman found that 1,798 of the 2,624 sentences in these 15 chapters showed no dependence whatsoever on any author outside of the Bible. Thirty sentences were taken, almost verbatim, from other sources, but not one sentence was found to be word for word the same as the works of any other author. Eighty-five sentences contained Scripture quotations that also were expressed in the works of other authors. The remaining 711 sentences had key words or sometimes paraphrased materials similar to that found in the writings of other authors.

The results of the study reveal a very different picture from what some have tried to lead this church and the world to believe about Ellen White's books and work. I am thankful this afternoon for the preliminary report of this research, because it gives us great assurance that God did indeed use this human instrument as a part of His continued self-revelation and to bring great blessing to all of us. [Applause.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: During the past few days, greetings from the divisions have piled up. The South American Division sent us more greetings than any other division. We have quite a list from the Inca Union, and then practically every organization in Brazil. We would like to record and reciprocate those greetings.

One very interesting greeting came this morning. Ed Peterson talked with Pitcairn Island last night for an hour by ham radio and this morning gave us the following message: "Greetings to all at the

General Conference session. Wish we could be with you. We have taken a special offering for the Guam radio station. God bless you all. Pastor Webster and Tom and Betty Christian." We certainly appreciate these greetings.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: All right, a motion is in order to record with appreciation these messages that have come. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

NEAL C. WILSON: There are a few other reports that I wish we had time for, but we have run out of time. There are some great people serving this church from whom we have not heard. I wish I had time to tell a little about what is being done by Milton Murray in Philanthropic Service for Institutions. I wish I could have told you something about the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency. I wish you could have learned a little more about North American Missions and the evangelistic Soul Winning Institute in Chicago, the work of the Office of Human Relations, and several other very important areas of activity of the church. At the next session we will try to give them the number one spot. Many of these people are very self-effacing, but some of us feel they should be mentioned.

I also wish personally to thank our Secretariat for the marvelous job they have done during this session. This task goes on behind the scenes. Thank you for everything that has been done.

The ushers, the beautiful flowers that have been furnished, the platform, and the music have added to our comfort and pleasure. All have simply been magnificent in doing their job, and we are all deeply indebted to them.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. I am certain those who have done these jobs appreciate the comments you have made. I am going to ask our secretary to bring two more actions to us.

J. W. BOTHE: I move that all unfinished business be referred to the General Conference Committee. [Motion seconded and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Now we come to our Resolution of Gratitude. [Read and voted. See Actions section.]

How thankful we can be for the way the Lord has blessed. [Meeting was adjourned.]

ARTHUR WARD: [Benediction.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER, *Chairman*  
J. W. BOTHE, *Secretary*  
D. A. ROTH  
and C. D. WATSON  
*Proceedings Editors*

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## Session actions

### GC Constitution and Bylaws—Review of Language and Terminology

*Voted,* To request the General Conference Committee to review the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws for the purpose of updating its language and terminology and to submit the results of the review to the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

### GC Constitution—Codification of Article III, Section 3b, Provisions

*Voted,* To request the General Conference Committee to develop a proposal for codifying the provisions of GC Constitution, Article III, Section 3b, for the purpose of establishing more specifically how the provisions of that section are to be applied and to submit the proposal to the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

### Procedural Rules for General Conference Business Sessions

*Voted,* To request the General Conference Committee to compile

and publish rules of procedure to be followed in conducting the business meetings of a General Conference session.

### Parliamentarian for General Conference Business Sessions

*Voted,* To request the General Conference Committee to consider the possibility and practicability of appointing a parliamentarian for the business meetings of future General Conference sessions.

### Division Institutions—Representation on Nominating Committee

*Voted,* To refer to the General Conference Committee consideration of the matter of representation from division institutions on General Conference session nominating committees.

### Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee

*Voted,* To request the General Conference Committee to name a Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee, which shall function between regularly scheduled General Conference sessions and shall submit its recommendations to the General Conference Executive Committee and to the General Conference session.



**BJK Triplets and World Wide Visuals, suppliers of GC Sabbath school illustrative items, sold supplies at their booth.**



**Melvin West, from Lincoln, Nebraska, was a session organist.**

### Ordination of Women to the Gospel Ministry

*Voted,* 1. To take no definitive action at this time regarding the ordination of women to the gospel ministry.

2. To maintain the church's present position on this matter.

3. To prepare further Biblical and other studies on the question of ordaining women by assigning specific topics to scholars and theologians for research.

4. To assign discussion of the documents growing out of such research to a special representative committee that will be scheduled to meet early in 1988, its findings to be presented in a report to the 1988 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee and subsequently to the 1989 Annual Council, at which time the entire issue will be reviewed.

### Women's Participation in Church Work

*Voted,* 1. To urge that "affirmative action" for the involvement of women in the work of the church be a priority plan with church leadership, and to request leaders to use their executive influence to open to women all aspects of ministry in the church that do not require ordination.

2. To give special emphasis to the work of Bible instructors, both women and men, and to urge that conference and field administrators

restore this ministerial category to importance and accord it proper recognition in the work of the church.

3. To recognize the desirability of a pastor and his wife working together as a team and the spiritual strength that will result through such combined ministry, and to urge that this concept be studied further, together with the development of a financial plan and training program that would support its implementation wherever feasible.

4. To recognize that a great need exists to educate our people regarding the major roles that women may fill in the Lord's work without ordination, and to request that specific plans to meet this need be developed and presented to the 1985 Annual Council.

### Ministerial Ordination—Reform of Practices

*Voted,* To institute a reform in the church's ordination practices for the purpose of limiting ministerial ordination only to those who perform direct pastoral, evangelistic, ecclesiastical, or other clearly ministerial-type duties.

### Ministerial Worker Functions in NAD—Clarification

*Voted,* To request the North American Division committee to clarify the functions of ministerial workers who hold ministerial



licenses, including how such functions relate to women who serve as pastors or associates in pastoral care, and to request that a complete proposal on roles and procedures be submitted by the North American Division to the 1985 Annual Council for consideration.

### **Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) Office**

*Voted*, 1. To provide for setting up an office to be known as the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM).

2. To amend the General Conference Constitution to provide for

the ACM and for its director to be an elected member of the General Conference staff.

### **The Nature of Man—Church Manual Amendment Directive**

*Voted*, To advise the fifty-fourth General Conference session that the *Church Manual* Committee intends to make an editorial change in CM, p. 34, par. 7, *The Nature of Man*, as follows:

#### *7. The Nature of Man*

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to

think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else.

Remainder of this paragraph remains unchanged.

### **Unfinished Business**

*Voted*, To refer all unfinished business to the General Conference Committee at headquarters.

### **Nominating Committee Report—12**

*Voted*, To approve the following

final report of the Nominating Committee:

#### *General Conference*

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

Director: Charles D. Martin

Adventist Personnel Service

Director: George R. Ramsey

Associate Directors, Communi-

cation: Shirley Burton, Victor H.

Cooper, Tulio R. Haylock, Owen

A. Troy

Associate Directors, Education:

George P. Babcock, Victor S. Grif-

fiths, Agripino S. Segovia

Associate Directors, Publishing:

Rudi H. Henning, Richard L.

McKee, Robert Smith



## **Ellen White paintings unveiled at White Estate booth**

Five inspirational paintings unveiled June 28 reveal facets of Ellen White's ministry to the Adventist Church. Artists Vernon Nye, Walla Walla, Washington, and Alfred Lee, currently at Oakwood College, painted the art pieces specifically for this General Conference session.

Paul Gordon, undersecretary of the White Estate, notes that "the watercolor and oil paintings will be kept in the Washington, D.C., center after this session."

Four paintings portraying visions of Ellen White were prepared by Vernon Nye. In the center is Alfred Lee's portrayal of the glorified Christ. Left to right:

1. Ellen in vision sees lights all around the world, representing literature from our publishing houses.

2. An angel stands with the tables of the Decalogue in hand. The fourth commandment is encircled by a ring of light, emphasizing reaffirmation of the seventh day as the Sabbath of the Lord.

3. The glorified Christ is based on the descriptions in Revelation 1 and Ellen White's writings. The Saviour stands amid seven candlesticks with light radiating from His entire being. As Gordon points out: "His eyes are a beautiful blue—with a blue flame. Anywhere you stand, He seems to be looking at you."

4. In the garden of life some people find the thorns among the flowers, but Ellen admonishes Christians to gather the roses, lilies, and pinks.

5. D. M. Canright, who left Adventism in the 1880s, tries to jump to another ship he thinks safer in the surrounding storm. But Ellen White is shown that the other craft is worm-eaten. He is told to stay by the ship.

"We're grateful," comments Gordon, "for what these men have done to further distinguish our Adventist heritage."

PAUL RICHARDSON

Associate Director, Trust Services: Wyman Wager

Associate Directors, Health and Temperance: E. E. Carman, Iris Hayden, Rudolph E. Klimes, Raymond L. Pelton, Stoy Proctor, Elizabeth Sterndale, Gary B. Swanson, Albert S. Whiting, DeWitt S. Williams.

Associate Secretaries, Ministerial Association: Carlos E. Aeschlimann, J. David Newman, Arturo E. Schmidt, J. Robert Spangler.

Associate Directors, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty: Gordon O. Engen, Roland R. Hegstad, Neville O. Matthews, Gary M. Ross, Mitchell A. Tyner.

#### Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Auditor: Wayne Vail  
Publishing Director: Dale L. Thomas

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#### Nominating Committee—Unfilled Positions—Referral

*Voted*, To refer the unfilled positions from the Nominating Committee to the General Conference Committee at headquarters.

#### Resolution of Gratitude

We, the delegates gathered together in New Orleans for the fifty-fourth session of the General Conference, give thanks to God, the Father of us all, for His great goodness manifested toward the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He called this movement into being, raising it up out of obscurity and

humble resources. He has guided and sustained it, and by His power has spread the message of the three angels of Revelation 14 to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. He has preserved the church during the assaults of the enemy. He has rolled back like the waters of the Red Sea the problems that threatened to overwhelm it. He has nurtured the church as His own child, precious in His sight. Here, at this General Conference session, we have seen the visible evidence of the marvels of His grace, as delegates representing more than 180 nations are one in faith, one in love, one in Christ our hope.

As we contemplate the wonders of what the Lord has done for us, we exclaim, "'Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty.'" In humble gratitude we give all praise to our God and commit ourselves by His grace to live for His glory and to complete the task of spreading the good news of Jesus to every person on this earth.

Adjourned.

NEAL C. WILSON, *Chairman*  
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## Adventist Review



Published Continuously Since 1849

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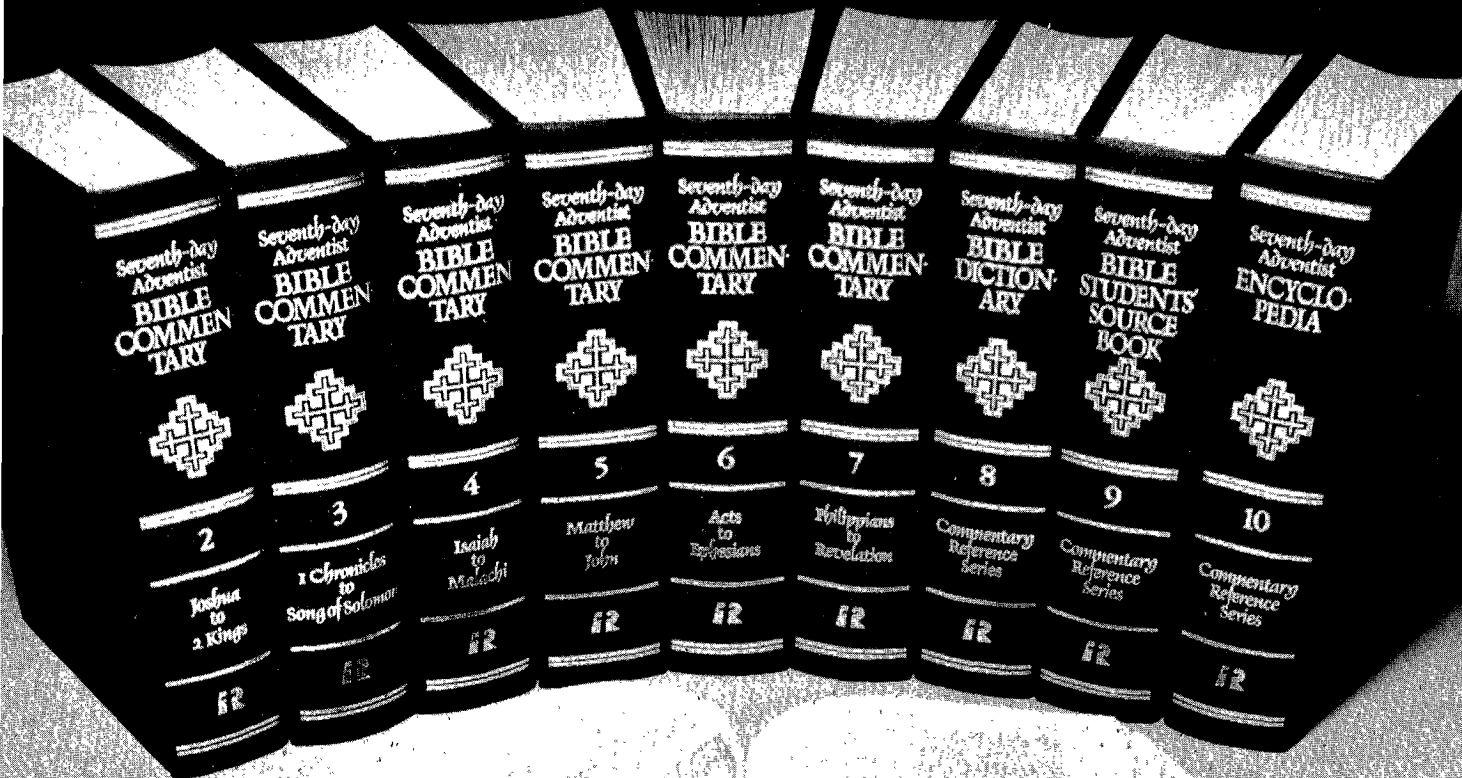
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# 54TH SESSION of the GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

June 27 to July 6, 1985  
Louisiana Superdome  
New Orleans, Louisiana

World Headquarters  
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FINANCIAL REPORTS of the  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
General Retirement Plan for North America  
Hospital Retirement Plan for North America

General Conference Corporation of  
Seventh-day Adventists

General Conference Association of  
Seventh-day Adventists

North American Conference Corporation  
of Seventh-day Adventists

For the years  
1980  
1981  
1982  
1983  
1984

presented by

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March 15, 1985

Walter P. Maner Jr.

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fourth  
General Conference Session  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Washington, D.C.

We have examined the balance sheets of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists combined Tithes and Specific Purpose Funds, General and Hospital Retirement Plans for North America; the combined funds of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists; and the General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists as of December 31, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981 and 1980 and the related statements of activity and fund balances for the years then ended. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The accompanying financial statements include only the assets, liabilities, fund balances and activity of the funds identified above as discussed in Note 1. Accordingly, such statements are not intended to present the financial position or activity of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and its affiliated organizations.

As discussed in Notes 1 and 2 the Specific Purpose, General Retirement and Corporation funds have investments in the General Conference Investment Fund (united funds) which are carried at net asset value as reported by the Investment Fund. Underlying investments comprising 42.4%, 39.3%, 43.0%, 46.4% and 43.8% of the net assets of the Investment Fund at December 31, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981 and 1980, respectively, are valued at face value. Generally accepted accounting principles require that investments of unlisted funds be valued at fair value.

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fourth  
General Conference Session  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

March 15, 1985

As discussed in Note 8, the most recent actuarial valuation of the General Retirement Plan is as of June 30, 1979. Accordingly, information regarding pension costs of the Tithes Fund as required by Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 8 and accumulated plan benefits and changes therein of the General Retirement Plan as required by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 35, are not available. Similar information regarding accumulated benefits of the Hospital Plan as of December 31, 1981 and changes therein for the years ended December 31, 1982 and 1981 is also unavailable. Additionally, information required by FASB No. 35 regarding accumulated benefits of the Hospital Plan may require adjustment when additional participant data becomes available to the Plan's consulting actuaries.

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial statements of the matters referred to in the preceding paragraphs and subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required to the Hospital Retirement Plan had additional participant data been available to the Plan's consulting actuaries, the financial statements mentioned present fairly the financial position of the respective funds of the General Conference, General Conference Corporation and General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists at December 31, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981 and 1980 and the activity for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied during the period except for the change in 1982, with which we concur, in the recognition of lagging donations as discussed in Note 9.

*Maner, Costerisan & Ellis PC*

Certified Public Accountants

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
COMBINED TITHE AND SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS  
BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS	December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Cash	\$ 1 081 959	\$ 1 124 993	\$ 812 333	\$ 1 481 028	\$ 611 781
Investments	84 882 094	82 681 817	87 360 896	87 003 386	86 952 747
Accounts and notes receivable:					
Current	27 282 503	23 629 771	22 340 138	24 920 755	35 776 593
Long-term	3 072 382	9 719 384	10 352 291	6 810 397	9 783 595
Inter-fund	37 869	600 000	1 610 000		
Inventories and prepaid expenses	1 265 855	1 074 732	964 939	920 638	630 564
	<u>\$117 622 602</u>	<u>\$118 810 697</u>	<u>\$123 440 597</u>	<u>\$121 136 204</u>	<u>\$133 755 280</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 18 373 775	\$ 14 438 967	\$ 16 578 410	\$ 12 413 867	\$ 25 535 640
Inter-fund payables	4 260				
Long-term payables		2 023 639	1 807 148		
Trust funds	802 107	2 459 780	1 933 326	9 422 030	10 439 653
Deferred income	1 238 789	89 599	57 269	154 750	127 404
Total liabilities	<u>20 418 931</u>	<u>19 011 985</u>	<u>20 376 153</u>	<u>21 990 667</u>	<u>36 102 697</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>					
Unrestricted, undesignated:					
Tithe	26 308 624	18 912 210	27 604 137	26 064 814	24 963 180
Specific Purpose	15 589 933	21 455 988	23 487 289	26 566 332	20 912 029
Unrestricted, designated	47 885 675	55 644 257	51 151 543	42 476 856	47 520 270
Restricted	7 419 439	3 786 249	5 821 475	4 037 535	4 257 104
Total fund balances	<u>97 203 671</u>	<u>99 798 712</u>	<u>103 064 444</u>	<u>99 142 537</u>	<u>97 652 583</u>
	<u>\$117 622 602</u>	<u>\$118 810 697</u>	<u>\$123 440 597</u>	<u>\$121 136 204</u>	<u>\$133 755 280</u>

See notes to financial statements. -4-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
COMBINED TITHE AND SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY AND FUND BALANCES

	Year ended December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
Contributions - Tithe	\$ 82 078 211	\$ 77 926 663	\$ 74 285 468	\$ 74 375 800	\$ 69 375 944
- Offerings	66 508 618	58 431 654	62 784 428	67 964 768	69 713 271
Investment income and other	<u>6 449 255</u>	<u>15 824 524</u>	<u>15 490 696</u>	<u>7 369 473</u>	<u>12 015 709</u>
Total revenues	<u>155 036 084</u>	<u>150 182 841</u>	<u>152 560 592</u>	<u>149 708 041</u>	<u>151 100 924</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
Program services	139 546 440	135 839 646	140 265 803	134 153 130	121 926 035
General, administrative and other	15 595 334	15 305 719	14 701 629	12 130 590	11 321 728
Fund raising	1 574 533	1 380 224	1 257 630	1 262 455	1 055 870
Total expenses	<u>156 716 307</u>	<u>152 525 589</u>	<u>156 225 062</u>	<u>147 546 175</u>	<u>134 301 633</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES, before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle, capital additions and transfers</b>	(1 680 223)	(2 342 748)	(3 664 470)	2 161 866	16 799 291
<b>CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE</b>			7 394 027		
<b>TRANSFERS:</b>					
For use and/or acquisition of property and equipment	(1 545 000)	(1 591 919)	(964 697)	(668 912)	(590 308)
Neturated estates and other	<u>630 182</u>	<u>666 935</u>	<u>1 134 047</u>		
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FUND BALANCES</b>	<u>(2 595 041)</u>	<u>(3 265 732)</u>	<u>3 918 907</u>	<u>1 492 954</u>	<u>16 208 983</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES:</b>					
Beginning of year	<u>99 798 712</u>	<u>103 064 444</u>	<u>99 145 537</u>	<u>97 652 583</u>	<u>81 443 600</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 97 203 671</u>	<u>\$ 99 798 712</u>	<u>\$103 064 444</u>	<u>\$ 99 145 537</u>	<u>\$ 97 652 583</u>

See notes to financial statements. -5-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
GENERAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA  
BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS	December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Cash	\$ 152 484	(\$ 606 768)	\$ 145 101	\$ 122 155	(\$ 121 585)
Investments	82 433 882	79 878 109	71 586 713	60 687 360	57 856 680
Receivables	5 311 897	4 653 732	5 661 494	5 034 395	4 701 919
Total assets	<u>87 898 263</u>	<u>83 925 073</u>	<u>77 393 308</u>	<u>65 843 910</u>	<u>62 437 014</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Accounts payable	<u>1 687 384</u>	<u>1 626 248</u>	<u>1 517 244</u>	<u>1 697 185</u>	<u>1 342 277</u>
Fund balance available for plan benefits	<u>\$86 210 879</u>	<u>\$82 298 825</u>	<u>\$75 876 064</u>	<u>\$64 146 725</u>	<u>\$61 094 737</u>

See notes to financial statements. -6-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
GENERAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY AND FUND BALANCE

	Year ended December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
Contributions	\$35 194 850	\$32 613 576	\$31 702 325	\$30 185 499	\$26 841 661
Investment income	<u>8 018 079</u>	<u>8 261 366</u>	<u>7 393 555</u>	<u>6 519 256</u>	<u>5 737 426</u>
Total revenues	<u>43 212 929</u>	<u>40 874 942</u>	<u>39 095 880</u>	<u>36 704 755</u>	<u>32 579 087</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
Benefit payments	38 125 023	36 174 336	32 751 728	31 096 000	26 346 262
Administrative expenses	<u>454 590</u>	<u>267 093</u>	<u>244 854</u>	<u>212 342</u>	<u>180 408</u>
Total expenses	<u>38 579 613</u>	<u>36 441 429</u>	<u>32 996 582</u>	<u>31 308 342</u>	<u>26 526 670</u>
<b>EXCESS REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	4 633 316	4 433 513	6 099 298	5 396 413	6 052 417
<b>NET APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) IN FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS</b>	<u>(721 262)</u>	<u>1 989 248</u>	<u>5 630 241</u>	<u>(2 344 425)</u>	<u>249 970</u>
<b>NET INCREASE</b>	3 912 054	6 422 761	11 729 539	3 051 988	6 302 387
<b>FUND BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS:</b>					
Beginning of year	<u>82 298 825</u>	<u>75 876 064</u>	<u>64 146 725</u>	<u>61 094 737</u>	<u>54 792 350</u>
End of year	<u>\$86 210 879</u>	<u>\$82 298 825</u>	<u>\$75 876 064</u>	<u>\$64 146 725</u>	<u>\$61 094 737</u>

See notes to financial statements. -7-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
HOSPITAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA  
BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS	December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Cash	\$ 269 633	\$ 594 137	\$ 264 621	\$ 462 286	\$ 369 946
Investments	117 743 287	92 280 526	64 570 615	47 865 690	35 733 890
Receivables	11 113 053	9 596 370	8 981 622	2 832 810	1 738 689
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>129 125 973</b>	<b>102 471 033</b>	<b>73 816 851</b>	<b>51 158 786</b>	<b>37 839 525</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Accounts payable	716 209	1 404 703	543 266	1 160 471	906 383
<b>Fund balance available for plan benefits</b>	<b>\$128 409 764</b>	<b>\$101 066 330</b>	<b>\$ 72 873 625</b>	<b>\$ 49 998 315</b>	<b>\$ 36 932 940</b>

See notes to financial statements. -8-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
HOSPITAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY AND FUND BALANCE

	Year ended December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
Contributions	\$ 28 958 804	\$ 24 756 859	\$ 21 757 707	\$ 18 782 564	\$ 13 174 858
Investment income	10 270 114	12 018 408	7 787 195	4 327 748	3 120 103
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>39 228 918</b>	<b>36 775 267</b>	<b>29 544 902</b>	<b>23 110 312</b>	<b>16 294 961</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
Benefit payments	9 393 585	9 020 924	9 155 213	7 988 972	6 652 491
Administrative expense	305 141	476 212	124 320	103 641	178 537
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>9 698 726</b>	<b>9 497 136</b>	<b>9 279 533</b>	<b>8 092 613</b>	<b>6 831 028</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>29 530 192</b>	<b>27 278 131</b>	<b>20 265 369</b>	<b>15 017 699</b>	<b>9 463 913</b>
<b>NET APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) IN FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>(2 186 758)</b>	<b>914 574</b>	<b>2 607 941</b>	<b>(1 952 324)</b>	<b>(121 011)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE</b>	<b>27 343 434</b>	<b>28 192 705</b>	<b>22 875 510</b>	<b>13 065 375</b>	<b>9 342 902</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS:</b>					
Beginning of year	\$101 066 330	72 873 625	49 998 315	36 932 940	27 590 038
<b>End of year</b>	<b>\$128 409 764</b>	<b>\$101 066 330</b>	<b>\$ 72 873 625</b>	<b>\$ 49 998 315</b>	<b>\$ 36 932 940</b>

See notes to financial statements. -9-

GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
COMBINED FUNDS BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS	December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>					
Cash	\$ 617 757	\$ 372 853	\$ 392 886	\$ 104 919	\$ 206 568
Investments	6 965 437	6 973 092	6 520 668	5 429 296	5 379 881
Accounts and notes receivable - current	217 962	300 749	106 175	247 196	126 540
Inter-fund receivables	4 260				
Prepaid expenses	45 505	33 429	39 587	22 974	25 326
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>7 850 921</b>	<b>7 680 123</b>	<b>7 059 316</b>	<b>5 804 265</b>	<b>5 738 315</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS:</b>					
Long-term receivables	641 424	724 832	841 918	176 376	159 465
Real estate and other investments	17 499 324	17 097 945	17 086 557	7 996 032	8 019 499
Investments in affiliates	5 338 861	5 377 461	4 252 461	4 252 461	4 252 461
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>23 719 609</b>	<b>23 200 236</b>	<b>22 180 936</b>	<b>12 424 869</b>	<b>12 471 645</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:</b>					
Land	582 579	582 579	582 579	696 048	825 943
Land improvements	79 274	79 274	99 208	99 208	99 575
Buildings	9 195 627	9 189 565	9 169 059	9 861 919	9 551 363
Equipment	4 167 195	4 119 861	3 614 086	2 800 114	2 825 925
<b>Less accumulated depreciation</b>	<b>14 024 675</b>	<b>13 971 299</b>	<b>13 465 532</b>	<b>13 457 289</b>	<b>13 303 304</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>9 198 411</b>	<b>9 695 127</b>	<b>9 758 994</b>	<b>10 073 186</b>	<b>9 874 371</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40 768 941</b>	<b>\$40 575 486</b>	<b>\$38 999 846</b>	<b>\$28 302 320</b>	<b>\$28 084 331</b>

See notes to financial statements. -10-

LIABILITIES	December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>					
Accounts payable	\$ 1 890 801	\$ 1 930 090	\$ 1 863 989	\$ 1 665 418	\$ 3 144 191
Inter-fund payables	37 769	600 000	1 610 000	1 275 000	
Notes and loans payable - current	132 228	143 325	131 678	57 500	53 420
Annuities payable	723 162	699 063	614 366	624 407	719 910
Deferred income	2 223 923	1 847 767	1 688 949		
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>5 006 981</b>	<b>5 222 245</b>	<b>5 908 982</b>	<b>3 622 325</b>	<b>3 917 521</b>
<b>NOTES AND LOANS PAYABLE, less current maturities</b>	<b>6 997 103</b>	<b>7 115 498</b>	<b>7 260 823</b>	<b>6 151 889</b>	<b>6 149 402</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>12 004 084</b>	<b>12 337 743</b>	<b>13 169 805</b>	<b>9 774 214</b>	<b>10 066 923</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>					
Unrestricted, undesignated	2 382 914	2 129 958	1 873 457	7 672 118	6 458 669
Unrestricted, designated	16 716 332	16 345 455	15 339 807	2 057 802	1 684 368
Net investment in plant	9 198 411	9 095 127	8 148 594	8 798 186	9 874 371
Restricted	467 203	467 203	467 203		
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>28 764 860</b>	<b>28 237 743</b>	<b>25 829 061</b>	<b>18 528 106</b>	<b>18 017 408</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40 768 941</b>	<b>\$40 575 486</b>	<b>\$38 999 846</b>	<b>\$28 302 320</b>	<b>\$28 084 331</b>

-11-



GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
COMBINED FUNDS STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY AND FUND BALANCES

	Year ended December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
Contributions	\$ 270,386	\$ 809,897	\$ 1,166,887	\$ 100,760	\$ 100,913
Investment income and other	534,018	1,034,972	1,119,567	991,277	354,666
Total revenues	1,304,404	1,844,869	2,286,454	1,092,037	455,579
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
General, administrative and other	1,718,035	1,519,073	1,411,656	1,116,912	1,094,140
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	(413,631)	324,996	874,798	(24,875)	(638,561)
<b>CAPITAL ADDITIONS:</b>					
Property and equipment - not Endowment	25,930	1,160,722	6,148,284	(133,359)	69,179
<b>TRANSFERS:</b>					
For use and/or acquisition of property and equipment	1,545,000	1,591,919	964,697	568,912	590,308
Matured estates and other	(630,182)	(668,935)	(1,154,047)		
<b>NET INCREASE IN FUND BALANCES</b>	527,117	2,408,702	7,300,935	510,698	20,926
<b>FUND BALANCES:</b>					
Beginning of year	28,237,743	25,829,041	18,528,106	18,017,408	17,996,482
End of year	28,764,860	28,237,743	25,829,041	18,528,106	18,017,408

See notes to financial statements. -12-

GENERAL CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
BALANCE SHEETS

	December 31,				
	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Due from General Conference Corporation	\$ 866	\$ 876	\$ 886	\$ 896	\$ 906
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>					
Beginning of year	\$ 876	\$ 886	\$ 896	\$ 906	\$ 916
Deduct filing fee	10	10	10	10	10
End of year	\$ 866	\$ 876	\$ 886	\$ 896	\$ 906

See notes to financial statements. -13-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Basis of accounting** - The financial statements of the General Conference are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Fund accounting** - To facilitate observance of certain limitations on the use of resources for particular purposes the General Conference has adopted the principles of fund accounting utilizing the following fund groups:

**Current operating funds** - Current operating funds are segregated into the Tithes and Specific Purpose Funds.

Resources available to the General Conference from the constituent members in accordance with the Biblical principle of tithing are accounted for within the Tithes Fund. The Tithes is to be used for the work of the ministry and Bible teaching, including the carrying forward of the denominational administration in the care of the church and of field missionary operations. The Tithes is not to be expended upon other lines of work such as church or institutional debt-paying or building operations.

Resources available from sources other than tithes are accounted for within the Specific Purpose Fund. Similarly, expenditures which do not meet the criteria to be paid from the tithes income are recorded in the Specific Purpose Fund.

The General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists is segregated into the following funds:

**Plant Funds** - Land, buildings and equipment used in the operation of the General Conference and certain affiliated organizations are accounted for in the Plant Fund.

The Current Fund is used to record the current operating expenses related to plant assets and certain long-term assets (primarily real estate), related liabilities and income and expenses.

The Pooled Investment Fund is used to invest available funds on a commingled basis. The fund accepts deposits from other funds (owned and non-owned) on a fixed-rate basis. It is not operated on a units or percentage participation basis.

The Annuities Fund is used to account for gift annuities. Under agreements with donors, which are irrevocable, assets are transferred to the General Conference in exchange for periodic annuity payments to be made by the General Conference for the lifetime of the annuitant(s).

-14-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The Estates Fund was established to account for the receipt of non-cash assets and where the General Conference is a named beneficiary in a will. Cash assets are passed on to the appropriate fund or organization when received. Non-cash assets are recorded at amounts not materially different from fair value at date of gift and remain in the Estates Fund until realized in cash. Gifts are recognized as support at the time the particular resources are used for the purpose specified by the donors. Amounts not expended are classified as deferred income.

In 1982 the General Conference received \$467,203 to be known as the Frank Herbert and Elsie Oliver Smith Endowment Fund. The income is to be used exclusively for the support of missions, at least one-half of which is to be expended for the support of foreign missions.

In accordance with denominational policy the fund balances of the Pooled Investment and Annuities Funds are not to be used for general operating purposes until the underlying trust or annuity matures.

**Retirement Funds** - Assets accumulated to provide retirement, medical and certain other benefits are accounted for in the General Retirement Plan for North America and the Hospital Retirement Plan for North America.

In addition to these funds there are other funds and/or organizations which are affiliated with or owned or controlled by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The accompanying financial statements are not intended to present the combined financial position or activity of the worldwide organization of Seventh-day Adventists.

Funds under the direct accounting control of the General Conference which are excluded from the financial statements include:

Unitized Funds - Investment, Income and International, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Inc.; Non-Owned Trust Funds.

Also excluded from the financial statements of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists for the years 1981 and 1980 is the Estates Fund which was not audited for those years. The exclusion of the fund is not considered material to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Intra-fund receivables/payables are eliminated in the combined statements. Inter-fund receivables/payables, which are not material, are not eliminated.

-15-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Investments - Investments are recorded generally at the lower of aggregate average cost or current value (reported net asset value of utilized funds). Investments of the Retirement Plans are recorded at current value or reported net asset value of utilized funds for the General Plan. The difference between current value and cost is reflected in the statement of activity. Realized gain or loss on investments represents the difference between the proceeds received and the cost of investments sold.

Inventories - Inventories of office and maintenance supplies and items for re-sale are recorded at the lower of cost (generally weighted average) or market.

Property, equipment and depreciation - Property and equipment owned and used directly by the General Conference is recorded at cost in the Plant Funds. Depreciation is computed over the estimated useful lives on the straight-line method. The Corporation is the legal entity for purposes of holding title to property on behalf of certain of its affiliated organizations. The Corporation may also have signed mortgages or other evidences of indebtedness on behalf of its affiliates in connection with these properties. The property and related obligations, if any, are recorded directly on the books of the affiliates and are not recorded by the Corporation.

Real estate investments - Investments in real estate are recorded at cost or, in the case of certain real estate transferred to the Corporation by an affiliated organization without consideration, at appraised value at date of transfer. (See above regarding depreciation policy.)

Investments in affiliated organizations - Investments in affiliated organizations are carried at original cost or, in the case of certain securities obtained by gift, at the fair value at date of gift.

Accounting for gift annuities - Gift annuities are recorded by the actuarial method. Under this method, assets are recorded at fair value at date of gift. The corresponding credit is to annuities payable for the present value of the future annuity payments based upon acceptable life expectancy tables with the remainder to fund balance. Investment income and gains are credited, and the contractual periodic payments to the annuitant and investment losses are charged to the annuities payable liability. The actuarial present value of annuities payable is recalculated periodically based upon revised life expectancies with the resulting actuarial gain (or loss) credited (or charged) to fund balance, upon maturity of an annuity the remaining net assets are distributed generally to current operating funds.

-16-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Trust funds - Funds held on a temporary basis in an agency or custodial relationship for others are classified as "Trust Funds".

Deferred income - Resources which are restricted by donors as contrasted with resources over which the General Conference has complete control and discretion are recognized as income at the time such resources are expended for the purpose specified by the donor. Unexpended resources are deferred.

Designated fund balances - Amounts designated by the governing board for specific purposes which have not been expended at year end are classified within fund balance as "designated".

Restricted fund balances - Amounts restricted by donors for specific purposes and which have not been recognized as support or capital additions are classified as "restricted".

NOTE 2 - INVESTMENTS

Investments consist of the following:

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>Tithe and Specific Purpose Funds:</b>					
General Conference Utilized Funds	\$61,387,397	\$66,636,624	\$76,963,737	\$81,637,830	\$73,930,670
Certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper and similar short-term items	16,904,973	16,009,449	14,189,409	13,944,728	17,703,750
Other	9,687,131	992,249	991,648	991,263	1,000,290
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>87,979,501</b>	<b>83,638,322</b>	<b>92,144,794</b>	<b>96,573,823</b>	<b>92,634,670</b>
Unrealized depreciation	3,097,407	956,505	4,783,898	9,570,437	5,681,923
<b>Current value</b>	<b>\$84,882,094</b>	<b>\$82,681,817</b>	<b>\$87,360,896</b>	<b>\$87,003,386</b>	<b>\$86,952,747</b>
<b>General Retirement Plan for North America:</b>					
General Conference Utilized Funds	\$80,863,268	\$76,085,680	\$69,741,410	\$63,452,783	\$59,940,255
Certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper and similar short-term items	2,054,574	3,506,363	3,384,931	4,275,225	2,426,950
Other	689,946	737,711	902,262	1,031,486	1,217,194
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>83,607,788</b>	<b>80,330,754</b>	<b>74,028,606</b>	<b>68,759,494</b>	<b>63,584,399</b>
Unrealized depreciation	1,173,906	452,645	2,441,893	8,072,134	5,227,709
<b>Current value</b>	<b>\$82,433,882</b>	<b>\$79,878,109</b>	<b>\$71,586,713</b>	<b>\$60,687,360</b>	<b>\$57,856,680</b>

-17-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 2 - INVESTMENTS (Continued)

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>Hospital Retirement Plan for North America:</b>					
Certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper and similar short-term items	\$ 20,188,712	\$ 20,114,152	\$ 14,805,768	\$ 15,925,241	\$ 13,234,177
Obligations of U.S. Government and Agencies	24,362,923	16,346,338	10,122,940	5,959,476	4,672,914
Corporate debt securities	32,501,516	25,622,555	21,236,289	12,660,162	9,956,262
Corporate equity securities	36,962,320	29,282,907	18,405,618	15,986,732	8,523,155
Real estate limited partnership	5,000,000				
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>119,015,471</b>	<b>91,365,952</b>	<b>64,570,615</b>	<b>50,471,611</b>	<b>36,386,508</b>
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(1,272,184)	914,574	1,943,646	(2,607,941)	(655,618)
<b>Current value</b>	<b>\$117,743,287</b>	<b>\$92,280,526</b>	<b>\$66,514,263</b>	<b>\$47,863,670</b>	<b>\$35,730,890</b>
<b>Corporation Funds:</b>					
General Conference Utilized Funds	\$ 4,622,973	\$ 4,637,235	\$ 5,261,215	\$ 5,261,215	\$ 5,310,291
Certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper and similar short-term items	2,059,890	2,033,313	1,214,304	566,296	385,469
Common stock	282,574	282,574	282,574	282,574	282,574
Other			42,796	42,796	42,796
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>6,965,437</b>	<b>6,953,122</b>	<b>6,757,793</b>	<b>6,152,361</b>	<b>6,021,130</b>
Unrealized depreciation	237,125	237,125	237,125	237,125	237,125
<b>Current value</b>	<b>\$ 6,965,437</b>	<b>\$ 6,923,092</b>	<b>\$ 6,520,668</b>	<b>\$ 5,429,206</b>	<b>\$ 5,379,861</b>

The current value of investments in Utilized Funds includes \$98,005,445 in 1984, \$103,295,175 in 1983, \$106,303,619 in 1982, \$97,906,489 in 1981 and \$96,243,845 in 1980 in the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists investment fund. The investments are reflected at net asset value as reported by the investment fund. However, underlying investments representing 42.4% in 1984, 39.3% in 1983, 43.0% in 1982, 46.4% in 1981 and 43.8% in 1980 of the net assets of the investment fund at the respective year ends are valued at face value rather than fair value as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

-18-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 3 - NOTES AND LOANS RECEIVABLE

Details of notes and loans receivable are as follows.

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
<b>Specific Purpose Fund:</b>					
Loma Linda University:					
Long-term advance account - Funds are advanced, as needed, from the long-term advance account to facilitate principal payments on the security agreement. Non-interest bearing and unsecured.	\$ 1,188,697	\$ 1,480,678	\$ 2,051,827	\$ 2,710,815	\$ 2,594,320
Security agreement:					
Part A					825,194
Part B					1,320,000
Loma Linda University Medical Center					
Principal due 9-30-85. Interest at 8% payable semi-annually, unsecured.	2,472,429	2,472,429	2,472,429	2,472,429	2,472,429
Loma Linda University Foundation					
Interest at 6 1/2% plus principal payments received on trust deeds payable monthly, collateralized by real estate trust deeds.	355,027	402,633	442,439	468,795	491,910
Graneese Foods, Ltd. (England):					
Principal due on demand, variable interest payable annually, unsecured.	1,131,418	1,180,000	1,180,000	1,180,000	1,180,000
Principal due on demand, variable interest payable semi-annually, unsecured.		167,924	500,000	500,000	
Davenport matter loans					
Funds advanced to Seventh-day Adventist Union Conferences to be repaid as cash flow permits. Interest payable quarterly at the average of short-term interest rates in effect during the quarter.		3,372,731	3,011,914		
Others (individually less than 5% of total loans)	1,523,480	1,668,960	1,795,076	1,677,594	1,506,241
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,671,051</b>	<b>10,745,355</b>	<b>11,453,685</b>	<b>9,009,651</b>	<b>10,390,094</b>
<b>Current</b>	<b>3,598,669</b>	<b>1,025,971</b>	<b>1,011,394</b>	<b>2,199,234</b>	<b>606,499</b>
<b>Long-Term</b>	<b>\$ 3,072,382</b>	<b>\$ 9,719,384</b>	<b>\$10,352,291</b>	<b>\$ 6,810,397</b>	<b>\$ 9,783,595</b>

-19-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 4 - REAL ESTATE AND OTHER INVESTMENTS

Real estate and other investments consist of:

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Faculty Medical Office Facility (Loma Linda, California),					
Cost (land \$18,975)	\$ 6,793,576	\$ 6,793,576	\$ 6,793,576	\$ 6,793,576	\$ 6,793,576
Less accumulated depreciation	(489,707)	(386,841)	(281,735)	(198,707)	(115,041)
Net book value	6,343,869	6,428,735	6,511,801	6,594,869	6,678,535
NAD Evangelism Institute:					
Cost (land \$328,919)	1,305,234	1,305,234	1,305,234		
Less accumulated depreciation	(117,158)	(78,105)	(39,052)		
Net book value	1,188,076	1,227,129	1,266,182		
Subtotal	7,531,945	7,655,864	7,777,983	6,594,869	6,678,535
Loma Linda University Medical Center land - appraised value at date of transfer	6,800,000	6,800,000	6,800,000		
Other real estate	1,350,464	1,341,904	1,342,064	1,401,163	1,341,164
Common stock - Argyle	1,440,280	854,149	854,149		
Other	576,635	445,966	312,361		
	\$17,699,324	\$17,097,943	\$17,086,557	\$ 7,996,032	\$ 8,019,699

The Faculty Medical Office Facility has been leased for a period of 30 years (to June 30, 2009) for \$53,479 per month. In addition, the lessee pays taxes, insurance, utilities and other operating expenses.

By action of the Board in 1984 the Corporation subordinated its interest to a first deed of trust in connection with a building expansion program by Loma Linda University. The Board also agreed to subsidize any cash flow shortages resulting from increases in interest rates over the remaining lease period and to transfer the property to Loma Linda University without consideration on June 30, 2009.

-20-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 4 - REAL ESTATE AND OTHER INVESTMENTS (Continued)

In 1982 Loma Linda University, a General Conference affiliate, transferred the deed to land underlying the Loma Linda University Medical Center to the General Conference without consideration. The land has been recorded at appraised value at date of transfer. (The historical cost to the university was approximately \$150,000.) The land is subject to a net lease to the Medical Center which expires in 2030. The present monthly rent is \$71,266. The Conference has agreed to appropriate the rent received back to the university.

The NAD Evangelism Institute pays an annual rental of \$74,340 subject to adjustment each July 1 based upon changes in the remuneration factor for the North American Division. In addition the Institute pays taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance and other operating expenses.

The above leases are accounted for as operating leases in accordance with FASB #13.

Minimum lease payments for leases in effect at December 31, 1984 are as follows:

Year	Amount
1985	\$ 641,748
1986	641,748
1987	641,748
1988	641,748
1989	641,748
Later years	12,634,760

The Loma Linda University Medical Center land lease is excluded from the above schedule because of the Conference's commitment to appropriate the lease payments to Loma Linda University, thereby resulting in no net income to the Conference.

-21-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 5 - INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATES

Investments consist of:

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Harris Pine Mills	\$4,157,461	\$4,157,461	\$4,157,461	\$4,157,461	\$4,157,461
Loma Linda Foods, Inc.	1,126,400	1,125,000			95,000
Gancon Agency, Inc.	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
	\$5,378,861	\$5,377,461	\$4,252,461	\$4,252,461	\$4,252,461

The above investments represent 100% of the outstanding stock of the organizations.

The carrying value of Harris Pine Mills represents the fair value, as appraised, of the underlying net assets at the date the stock was received as a donation.

Effective December 31, 1983, Loma Linda Foods (an unincorporated division of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists) was restructured into Loma Linda Foods, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Corporation. The carrying value of \$1,126,400 represents the approximate net book value of Loma Linda Foods at December 31, 1983.

The company's books (unaudited) reflect stockholder's equity as follows:

Company	Date	Stockholder's equity
Harris Pine Mills	12/31/83	\$17,232,000
Loma Linda Foods, Inc.	12/31/83	1,126,400
Gancon Agency, Inc.	12/31/83	228,700

The General Conference owns 20% of the outstanding shares of Argyle Land Company, Inc., a Louisiana non-profit corporation. (The remaining 80% is owned by other Seventh-day Adventist organizations.)

The reviewed financial statements of Argyle as of December 31, 1984 reflect total stockholders' equity of \$4,086,000.

NOTE 6 - DEPRECIATION EXPENSE

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Depreciation expense for the year	\$ 684,153	\$ 611,102	\$ 502,727	\$ 362,990	\$ 352,342

-22-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 7 - NOTES AND LOANS PAYABLE

Notes and loans payable consist of:

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Specific Purpose Fund					
Seventh-day Adventist Union Conferences	\$	\$2,023,639	\$1,807,148	\$	\$
Corporation Funds					
General Conference Investment Fund:					
Faculty Medical Office Facility	\$5,974,345	\$6,028,044	\$6,091,267	\$6,149,389	\$6,202,822
NAD Evangelism Institute	1,154,981	1,232,779	1,301,234	60,000	
Total	7,129,326	7,260,823	7,392,501	6,209,389	6,202,822
Less current maturities	(32,226)	(45,325)	(31,678)	97,500	95,420
Long-term	\$6,997,100	\$7,115,498	\$7,260,823	\$6,151,889	\$6,149,402

The General Conference established a loan fund in 1982 to provide temporary assistance to denominational entities experiencing cash flow problems arising from the Gavvanport matter.

All loans were repaid in 1984.

The "Faculty" note is payable \$189,702 quarterly including interest at 12%. The interest rate is subject to adjustment annually. Final maturity, June 30, 2009.

The "Institute" note is payable \$58,591 quarterly including interest at 13% through December 31, 1985 at which time the interest rate is subject to renegotiation. Final maturity, 1992.

Maturities of the long-term notes are as follows:

Year	Amount
1985	\$ 152,226
1986	149,788
1987	169,698
1988	196,259
1989	217,791
Later years	6,263,592
	\$7,129,326

The above maturities are based on the present interest rates and payment schedules.

Total interest expense charged to operations:

1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
\$ 905,211	\$ 852,799	\$ 785,031	\$ 525,567	\$ 529,877

-23-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 8 - RETIREMENT PLANS

General

The following brief description of The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Retirement Plans for North America (General and Hospital) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the plan agreements for more complete information.

The plans are non-contributory, defined-benefit plans providing retirement, disability, health, death and survivor benefits to employees of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, General Conference health care and other institutions and all conference organizations in the North American Division, who meet eligibility requirements.

Because they are church affiliated plans they are not subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and no election has been made to fall under these provisions.

Benefits

Employees with ten or more years of service are eligible for a normal monthly retirement benefit beginning at age 65 equal to the product of: (1) the average of their rate factors for the ten years of service during which they had the highest rate factors, (2) years of service credit (not to exceed forty), and (3) the pension factor determined as of the date of each payment. The plans permit early retirement benefits beginning at age 62 for participants with at least thirty-five years of service credit. The monthly benefit under this election is equal to the product of: (1) the benefit rate factor as of the date of actual retirement, (2) years of service credit (not to exceed forty), and (3) the pension factor determined as of each payment date.

A participant who has at least twenty years of service credit and who has been married throughout the immediately preceding one year prior to retirement is entitled to a monthly spouse allowance equal to the product of: (1) the normal or early retirement benefit, and (2) 1/4% for each year of service credit (not to exceed forty). The spouse allowance is reduced under certain circumstances and terminates upon the death of the spouse.

Certain benefits are also payable to eligible participants in the event of retirement due to disability or death.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 8 - RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

A participant with ten years of service who terminates employment other than by death, retirement (normal, early or postponed) or disability is entitled to a deferred vested benefit commencing at age 65, or under certain circumstances, age 62. The benefit is based upon their benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination and the pension factor determined as of the date of each payment.

Benefits are paid generally in the form of a joint and survivor annuity, however, a participant may elect a single life benefit.

Medical Benefits

In addition to retirement benefits the plans provide for certain medical benefits for participants with at least fifteen years of service credit who are receiving retirement benefits under the plan. Qualifying expenses incurred on behalf of a spouse, surviving spouse, former spouse and dependent children are also eligible for reimbursement.

Funding

Employees are not required, or permitted, to make contributions under the plans.

Organizations participating in the General Plan have agreed to contribute such amounts as necessary to provide assets sufficient to meet the benefits to be paid to plan members.

Contributions are based on a percentage of tithe income or a percentage of basic remuneration, subject to change from time to time as determined by the North American Division Committee on Administration. Denominational policy requires, in general, assets, at original cost, equivalent to three times the amount of the latest complete year's plan benefits and expenses. Under this policy there is a funding deficiency of approximately \$28,354,000 at December 31, 1984. The foregoing deficiency is unrelated to the unfunded accrued liability for current retirees and active participants which was estimated by the plan's consulting actuaries to be approximately \$400 million as of the last actuarial evaluation in 1979.

Participating health care employers are required to make contributions in at least such amounts as will prevent the occurrence of an accumulated funding deficiency, as defined. The contribution rate is based on total paid hours.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 8 - RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

Plan Amendment and/or Termination

The General Conference may amend the plans in whole or in part except that no amendment may reduce any retirement benefit that has accrued as of the date of the amendment. No amendment may permit any part of plan assets to revert to any participating employer or to be used for any purpose other than the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries.

It is the intention of the General Conference to continue the plans indefinitely. However, the Conference has the right to terminate the plans in whole or in part for any reason at any time.

In the event of termination, retirement benefits accrued under the plans as of the date of termination, to the extent then funded, shall be non-forfeitable. Plan assets shall be allocated among participants and their beneficiaries in the following order:

- (1) Benefits in pay status three years prior to termination
- (2) Benefits which would have been in pay status three years prior to termination if the participant had retired
- (3) All other non-forfeitable retirement benefits
- (4) All other retirement benefits

Whether all participants receive their benefits should the plans terminate at some future time will depend on the sufficiency, at that time, of the plans' net assets to provide those benefits.

Actuarial Information

Hospital Plan

Accumulated Plan Benefits

Estimated actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits as of December 31:		
	1983	1982
Vested:		
Participants currently receiving payments	\$106,587,384	\$116,185,658
Active participants	100,118,724	83,674,110
Vested terminated deferred participants	40,000,255	37,563,601
	246,711,345	237,423,369
Non-vested	33,023,366	27,599,183
	\$279,734,709	\$265,022,552

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 8 - RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

Changes in Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan Benefits

Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits at January 1, 1983	\$265,022,552
Increase (decrease) during the year attributable to:	
Reallocation of benefits between the General Plan and the Hospital Plan	(7,389,598)
Benefits accumulated	14,189,394
Increase for interest due to the decrease in the discount period	17,226,466
Benefits paid	(9,314,105)
Net increase	14,712,157
Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits at December 31, 1983	\$279,734,709

The latest actuarial valuation of the plan was as of December 31, 1982. The foregoing accumulated benefit information as of and for the year ending December 31, 1983 was estimated by the Plan's consulting actuaries and is subject to revision based on the submission by participating employers of complete and accurate participant data.

The unamortized past and prior service liability as of December 31, 1982 was \$192,773,123 which, based on thirty year amortization, will require annual payments of \$14,773,123.

The more significant assumptions underlying the actuarial computations are as follows:

Actuarial cost method	unit credit
Assumed rate of return on investments	6 1/2% compounded annually
Annual rate of increase:	
Pension factor	2 1/2% compounded annually
Benefit factor	1/2% compounded annually
Mortality (after retirement)	1983 Table "A" for males and females
Retirement age	65

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 8 - RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

Turnover	Annual non-vested terminations per 1,000 active employees	
	Age	
	25	530
	35	230
	45	100
	55	10
	60	---

General Plan

The last actuarial study of the plan was performed in 1979 and, accordingly, information regarding accumulated plan benefits, and changes therein, as required by FASB #35, is not available.

Because an actuarial evaluation of the plan has not been performed since 1979 it cannot be determined if the amount charged to current expense in accordance with denominational policy is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as promulgated by APB #8.

Contributions to the plan on behalf of General Conference employees amounted to \$1,389,298 in 1984, \$1,200,000 in 1983, \$1,150,000 in 1982, \$948,920 in 1981 and \$771,449 in 1980.

An analysis of the Health Care Reserve of the Hospital Plan follows:

	1984	1983	1982	1981
Balance at beginning of year/Initial transfer (1981)	\$2 725 986	\$2 018 673	\$1 749 506	\$1 477 317
Additions (deductions):				
Four percent of:				
Contributions to the plan	1 158 352	990 274	870 308	751 302
Investment income	323 327	517 319	311 487	173 109
Medical assistance	(599 432)	(534 148)	(704 387)	(485 548)
Medicare premiums	(304 714)	(266 132)	(208 241)	(166 674)
Balance at end of year (Included in fund balance)	\$3 303 519	\$2 725 986	\$2 018 673	\$1 749 506

-20-

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

NOTE 8 - RETIREMENT PLANS (Concluded)

Tax Status/ERISA

The Hospital Plan has received a favorable determination that it is exempt under provisions of Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. In the opinion of management, the General Plan is not subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code pertaining to tax exemption.

No reports have been filed under provisions of ERISA.

Plan Amendments

During 1983 several amendments to the plan were adopted. The more significant changes were:

1. Increase benefits 2 1/2% effective January 1, 1984.
2. Adopted increased contribution rates for participating organizations.
3. Adopt a pension factor equivalent to 85% of the remuneration factor (previously 100%). This reduction will be phased in over a period of years by granting approximately 65% of the annual increase in the remuneration factor.

NOTE 9 - CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

The closing date for the annual ingathering campaign was changed from January 31 to December 31, effective December 31, 1982. As a result of this change, income (of the Specific Purpose Fund) for 1982 was increased by \$7,394,027 representing the deferred ingathering receipts as of December 31, 1981. This change was made to correspond with the receipt of funds from the donors.

NOTE 10 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Essentially all transactions, other than certain investments and the purchase of goods and services, are with related funds and organizations.

NOTE 11 - INCOME TAX STATUS

The General Conference and its affiliated organizations are exempt from Federal, state, and local income taxes under provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

-29-

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Concluded)

NOTE 12 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Loan Guarantees

The General Conference is contingently liable on loans of other funds and/or affiliated organizations amounting to approximately \$5,700,000 at December 31, 1984.

Litigation

Proctor - This case, which was initiated in 1981, charges the General Conference and other defendants with, among other things, conspiracy to fix prices and illegal monopoly in connection with the distribution of publications of the Review and Herald Publishing Association. The plaintiff is seeking compensatory damages of \$450,000 and punitive damages of \$1 million. Under federal anti-trust laws any compensatory damages awarded are trebled and the plaintiff is entitled to reimbursement of legal fees. In 1983 the Court granted the motions to dismiss which had been filed by the General Conference Corporation and certain other defendants.

The General Conference and other remaining defendants are continuing to vigorously defend the allegations. Discovery is closed but a trial date has not yet been set. The probable ultimate outcome of the litigation or the amount or range of potential loss in the event of an unfavorable outcome cannot be predicted.

Granke - In January, 1985 the General Conference was named as a co-defendant in an action which requests damages aggregating \$9 million plus attorneys' fees and court costs for alleged violations of, among other things, the Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organization Act.

Management will vigorously defend this suit. However, it is not possible to evaluate the potential outcome or amount of loss, if any, at this time.

Davenport - In January, 1982 the General Conference and Corporation were named, together with several other parties, as co-defendants in a complaint brought by three individuals alleging a class action including claims of breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and securities violations in connection with alleged losses sustained by plaintiffs resulting from the bankruptcy of Dr. Donald J. Davenport in 1981. In addition the General Conference and Corporation, together with several other parties, were named as defendants in three other actions based on similar claims. In February 1983 the General Conference and other defendants settled all but one of these cases, including the alleged class action, from insurance proceeds.

In 1984 additional settlements were made from insurance proceeds and the case is closed.

Other - The General Conference is involved in other litigation which is not considered material to the financial position or activity of the Conference.

-30-

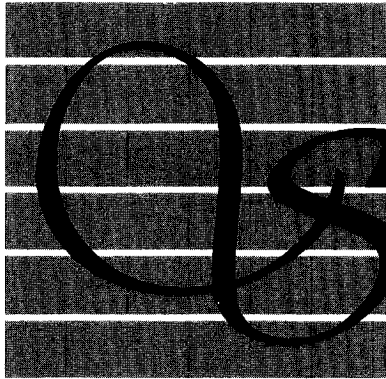
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The North American Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, has no known assets or liabilities. The Corporation is being continued in order to care for wills, legacies, or bequests which may have been written in favor of this organization and to adjust property interests which may still exist in the name of the North American Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

*L. L. Butler*  
Treasurer

*[Signature]*  
Secretary

-31-



She came for  
the job.  
She stayed for  
the experience.



Drastic change in the autumn years of her life wasn't what Anne was looking for. Yet, looking back, she only wishes it had come years sooner.

Anne (Carlson) Anderson came to Florida Hospital five years ago to work in the Nutritional Services Department. Early on, she noticed a difference. People were more friendly. The food seemed more healthful. And the atmosphere more caring.

The longer Anne worked here, the more she wanted what this Seventh-day Adventist hospital had to offer.

Through her work, Anne met a Seventh-day Adventist and began studying the Bible. Their studies led from mutual respect to love. Now, a short time later, her baptism and their marriage together has marked a new beginning.

"I just can't stop now," she says. "My experience has so totally changed me. I see what I've missed and I want to help other people see it, too."

If you'd like to be part of this kind of caring, write to us at: 601 East Rollins, Orlando, FL 32803.

## Florida Hospital

"It's not just the quality of our care.  
It's the quality of our caring."